FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 038 *24 February 1984*

ARGENTINA

Reportage on Discovery of Objects From Space B 1
'Spy Satellite' Fragment Found B 1
Object Not Radioactive B 1
Another Fragment Discovered B 1
Soviets Express Interest B 2
Hungarian Television Interviews Alfonsin B 2
Briefs: Nuclear Agreement With Ecuador; B 5
New Army Appointments

BOLIVIA

COB Calls 'State of Alert' Over Coup Rumors C 1
Vargas Salinas, ADN 'Involved' C 1
Transport Strike Paralyzes; MNR-H in Coup C 1
Cabinet Shuffle Not Discussed at UDP Meeting C 2
Siles Zuazo Discusses Domestic, Foreign Policies C 2
[EL PAIS 10 Feb]
Briefs: Unemployment Figures C 4

BRAZIL

Saraiva Meets Nicaraguan Reconstruction Minister D 1
Glemp Admits 'Problems' With Communist Regimes D 1
Vice President Chaves Criticizes Government D 1
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 22 Feb]
Rally For Direct Elections Scheduled 24 Feb D 2
EMBRAER Preparing To Assemble Planes in Egypt D 2
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 22 Feb]
'Off-Record' Economic Activity Increasing D 2
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 22 Feb]

CHILE

Minister Concerned About U.S. Copper Policy E 1
Defense Ministry Denies U.S. Arms Purchase E 2
Opposition on Matthei's Comments on Bill E 2
Briefs: Armored Truck in Production E 2

COLOMBIA

FARC Urban Front Reveals Internal Problems F 1
[EL SIGLO 18 Feb]
New Guerrilla Ambushes Claim More Lives F 1
Four Soldiers Killed F 1
One Killed, Seven Wounded F 2
[EL TIEMPO 20 Feb]
FARC Leader Flees With 40 Million Pesos F 2
[EL TIEMPO 17 Feb]

PARAGUAY

PATRIA Belittles PRF Rally at Plaza Italia [20 Feb] H 1
Briefs: Military Attaches Replaced H 2

PERU

Belaunde Meets Alva, Discusses Party Matters J 1
Will Back AP Candidate J 1
'Terrorists' Bomb Senate President's Home J 1

MEXICO

Colombia's Lloreda Arrives, Views U.S. Policy M 1
De la Madrid Discusses Foreign, Domestic Topics M 1
[EXCELSIOR 8 Feb]
PSUM Opposes U.S. Foreign Policy in C.A. M 2
Pemex Announces Continuation of Oil Prices M 2

PANAMA

PAPO President Zuniga Addresses Political Rally N 1

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

PAISA Deputy Ayala Shot by Unidentified Men P 1
COPREFA: FMLN Kidnapping To Replace Deserters P 1
Government, Rebel Military Activity Reported P 1
28 Rebels Killed P 1
[EL DIARIO DE HOY 22 Feb]
FMLN Takes Over Masahuat P 2
[Venceremos]
FMLN Attacks Train P 2
[Venceremos]
Venceremos Cites U.S. Opposition to Invasion P 3

GUATEMALA

Leader of Outlawed Labor Party Reportedly Killed P 3
Peasants Kidnapped; ORPA Hideout Raided P 4

HONDURAS

Rodista Movement Emphasizes Identity Documents P 4
[TIEMPO 21 Feb]

NICARAGUA

Ortega Reacts to Shultz' Canada Statement P 5
Ortega Criticizes Kissinger Report, U.S. Policy P 6
[Caracas EL NACIONAL 13 Feb]
Ortega Discusses Elections at Press Conference P 11
Commission Sums Up Work on Draft Electoral Law P 17

Tomas Borge on Elections, FSLN Supporters P 18
Rules Out Contra Participation P 18
[Paris LE MONDE 18 Feb]
PPSCA Leader Pleased With Elections Announcement P 19
Leader Resigns in Apparent Election Dispute P 19
Army Intelligence Chief on Counterrevolution P 20
Views Rebel Strategy P 20
Voice of Sandino Carries ARDE War Bulletins P 21
Army Rebuffed in Nueva Guinea P 21
EPS Ambushed in Punta Gorda P 21
Military Posts Attacked in Rivas P 22
Army Attacked at Atlanta Harbor P 22

CUBA

Further Reportage on Central Trade Union Congress Q 1
Castro Heads 3d Session Q 1
4th Session Program Outlined Q 1
Workers, Combatants To Be Honored Q 1
Castro Lauds Moa Workers Q 2
Bravo Meets With Swedish Immigration Minister Q 4
JUCEPLAN Negotiating Economic Plan in Warsaw Q 4
Delegation Attends Advisory Conference in Hanoi Q 4
ROK Team Invited to Pre-Olympic Tournament Q 4
[Seoul YONHAP]
Voter Turnout in Nomination Period Noted Q 5
Reagan's News Conference on Mideast Cited Q 5
FMLN Strength, Government's Inability Viewed Q 6
U.S. To Supply New Helicopters to El Salvador Q 6
Nicaragua Advances Elections to 4 November Q 7
Ortega: U.S. To 'Boycott' Elections Q 7
Parties Support FSLN Q 7
Peruvian Army Chief on Nuclear Weapons to Chile Q 8
Continued Workers' Strikes in Peru Noted Q 8
Reports on Violence in Peruvian Departments Q 8
Shining Path Suspected Q 8
One Dead, Two Missing in Ayacucho Q 8

CARIBBEAN

OECS To Meet, Sees Need for More Cooperation S 1
Pushes for 'Special Considerations' S 3

BARBADOS

Sir Hugh Springer Named Governor General S 3
DLP President Calls for Minister's Resignation S 4

GUYANA

Burnham Cited on U.S. 'Assassination Plot' T 1
Opposition Leaders Also Targeted T 1
Burnham Addresses GTA, Calls for Caribbean Unity T 2

SURINAME

UN Official Denounces Illegal Practices U 1

REPORTAGE ON DISCOVERY OF OBJECTS FROM SPACE

'Spy Satellite' Fragment Found

PY221710 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] A metal object 1.20 meters in diameter, presumably from a U.S. or French military satellite, was found at a ranch in Las Armas, Buenos Aires Province, last night. This is near Ayacucho, 250 km southeast of this capital. This discovery was reported to the Las Armas police unit on Road 2 by the foreman of the Don Jose Ranch. After arriving at the site, the police reported that the metal object is round, green and brown, with two brackets which give the impression of having been secured to a ship. The metal has some inscriptions, a mixture of letters and numbers which may be part of a military code.

Police sources said that the metal object may belong to a U.S. or French spy satellite, based on what the police were able to determine. The object was seen as it fell by several people in Mar del Plata, who said that it looked like a fireball. A spokesman of the Argentine Air Force said that the Air Force cannot yet comment on the matter because it does not have any information on the object.

Object Not Radioactive

PY231428 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1219 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Ayacucho, Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (TELAM) -- Experts of the Mar del Plata military aid base here last night established that the fragment of the Soviet satellite that fell here last Sunday is not radioactive. The experts went to Ayacucho after they heard reports about the appearance of a strange object. They concluded that the remains of the satellite were not radioactive, which greatly relieved the rural settlers who had been in contact with the satellite fragment.

The Ayacucho police last night reported that the fragment was subjected to exhaustive tests, including with a geiger counter. They added that after the test, the fragment was properly packed to be shipped to Mar del Plata where National Space Research Commission experts will study it and issue a final decision on its characteristics. The experts also noticed that the object in question was made with a sophisticated alloy, and that when it was hammered it sounded like a steel blade. The light weight of the sphere also caught the attention of the UFO experts.

Another Fragment Discovered

PY240228 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2344 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (TELAM) -- A fragment that fell from the sky and that is similar to the one found hours before was located today by personnel from the police station of Ayacucho, Buenos Aires Province. The object was found in a farm field known as Los Alamos, owned by Gustavo Lambertini. According to inspector Nestor Omar Yapore, the chief of the police station, neighbors reported that a spherical object had fallen on a mint field and that it was similar to the one that was previously discovered in the area and later sent to the Mar del Plata Air Force Base.

The police patrol sent to the mint field confirmed that foreman Nebel Curutchet was in possession of a spherical object with a radius of 1.2 meters and weighing a little over 13 kg. The object fell on the night of 9 February. Like the other object, the satellite fragment showed signs of the intense friction to which it was subjected when entering the atmosphere, including a brownish color and several melted parts. The fragment has been seized for inspection.

Soviets Express Interest

PY231759 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1655 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Ayacucho, Argentina, 23 Feb (NA) -- A fragment presumably belonging to a satellite was found this morning in a field near Ayacucho, 7 km from the place where a similar piece was found on Monday. The police have told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that the object found today is round, some 40 cm in diameter, and apparently made of metal and described as "rusty iron". The color is dark green. Police officer Miguel Reynoso of the Las Armas police station said that the remnants of this alleged new satellite were found 7 or 8 km from the place where the first object was found, in a farm field.

On Monday, many people in villages near Ayacucho were surprised to see the fall of an object enveloped in flames which was making noises like thunder. The object fell in Aquiles Ferrati's farm near the border of Las Armas county. Police examination showed that the object in question was a hollow sphere bearing inscriptions which could not be deciphered although an engineer from the Balcarce earth station suggested that it could be a fragment of a satellite. Later the object was taken to the police station and yesterday afternoon the Air Force sent Lieutenant Jorge Reyes from the Mar Chiquita Air Base to make a detailed analysis of the sphere.

Ayacucho police chief Nestor Yapore told Reyes that among other calls received on Monday was one from the Soviet Embassy because it appeared that the object found could belong to the Kravchenko satellite launched from Siberia in 1979. The examination of the object found this morning is directed at finding out whether it belongs to another satellite or to the one that fell yesterday. The Soviet Embassy, meanwhile, has not supplied any information concerning interest in these objects, claiming that the first secretary of the embassy was not around.

HUNGARIAN TELEVISION INTERVIEWS ALFONSIN

LD240242 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 2025 GMT 23 Feb 84

[From the "Panorama" program: Interview with Argentine President Alfonsin by Andras Sugar; date and place not given -- recorded in Spanish with superimposed Hungarian translation]

[Text] [Sugar] We in Hungary, and I think people here, too, were glad to hear that you were elected president with 52 percent of the vote. How do you see the future of relations between Argentina and the socialist countries, including Hungary?

[Alfonsin] I think these relations must be very good. Of course you know that the Soviet Union is our biggest buyer today. We want to continue business with the socialist countries. Naturally, we are well aware that the trade balance is very unfavorable for the Soviet Union, but we think that we can have very fruitful contacts with all CEMA countries. I can tell you with pleasure that I had an opportunity to get acquainted with Hungary personally. I visited your country. Our hotel was on the bank of the River Danube, probably you know it....

[Sugar] Danube?

[Alfonsin] No.

[Sugar] Forum?

[Alfonsin] No.

[Sugar] When did you visit?

[Alfonsin] I was there at the end of 1975. It was the Gellert Hotel.

[Sugar] Oh, yes, the Gellert.

[Alfonsin] We sat down in a very nice patisserie. It was not like in a socialist country but somewhere in Paris. It was a beautifully renovated patisserie, in the style of the end of the last century. You probably know which one.

[Sugar] Yes, it must be the Voeroesmarty sweetshop. It was built in the last century.

[Alfonsin] And we visited the Matyas Cellar, the Roman ruins in Obuda. The Hungarians are charming. We listened to gypsy music. Well, I have beautiful, lifelong memories from Budapest.

[Sugar] Mr President, turning to a less pleasant subject: Your heritage is not enviable at all. Although you won with 52 percent, you inherited economic bankrupcy, a world record inflation. How could your predecessors do so much harm to Argentina?

[Alfonsin] They succeeded in doing this because they replaced productive economy with the economy of speculation. In Argentina, money was made by speculation instead of production or work. This is basically what happened. Of course, something else also happened. We imported products that we used to produce ourselves. We imported cars while we closed our own car factories. We got into debt doing this and increased unemployment. Then we imported everything, even products that were produced by our own agricultural sector: ham, cheese, butter, and eggs. Because of this, of course, the whole Argentinian economy was bankrupted. Now we are trying to do the opposite.

[Sugar] And what concrete plans do you have to overcome the crisis?

[Alfonsin] First of all, to bring down inflation we have to decrease the budget deficit, and this means taxation. This is an unpopular measure for any government. But we have to do it, and we are going to do it. I have already sent the drafts to Congress. [The interview is interrupted here with a video of celebrations and demonstrations with explanatory commentary.]

[Sugar] It seems to me that the early cease-fire between the parties and the trade unions is coming to an end. Peronist trade unions are already demonstrating against you. How would you like to....[question interrupted]

[Alfonsin] We shall democratize the unions, too. There cannot be antidemocratic organizations here. The unions will be democratized, too. Minorities will have their representation. We must have electoral courts control every union manifestation.

[Sugar] But how?

[Alfonsin] By applying the law, always within the framework of the constitutional state.

[Sugar] Yes, but the unions have close contacts with your adversary, the Peronist Party.

[Alfonsin] It is time for leaders who won the elections to exercise their mandate, but only behaving democratically.

[Sugar] Are you ready to trim the military budget?

[Alfonsin] Yes. We have already decreased it, and we are going to decrease it further.

[Sugar] But what will the generals say? What will the soldiers say?

[Alfonsin] Sir, I am the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. Therefore, I can say something, but not the generals.

[Sugar] But in today's daily CLARIN I read that, according to a general named (Boussy), there were no "disappeared" here, only persons arrested in a just and declared war.

[Alfonsin] As a citizen Mr (Boussy) can think what he pleases. He is already a retired officer, he is not in service.

[Sugar] Today's CLARIN also reports 22 new corpses were discovered in (Granburg) Cemetery, where 300 have already been exhumed. How do you want to punish those responsible?

[Alfonsin] On the basis of the law. We have been doing this so far.

[Sugar] But military officers are judged by military courts.

[Alfonsin] Military judges pronounce sentences according to old laws. If we did not do this, the procedure would obviously be unconsitutional, since we would remove the officers from the judgment of their natural judges. But we can start an appellate procedure in connection with the sentences of the military courts in front of normal courts. This is the only legal way open for us.

[Sugar] But you want to eliminate the privileges of the military caste....

[Alfonsin] I think we have to aim at the reconciliation of the Argentines, and the Armed Forces should have their authority.

[Sugar] But how can they have authority at all?

[Alfonsin] They must have authority in the sense that they should perform their tasks in the most democratic form, independently from the form of government. Whether it be a representative democracy or a socialist system, in every country of the world it is a golden rule, that if a country wants to be honored, its military should subordinate itself to the political power. And this has to be achieved in Argentina, too.

[Sugar] This is a good principle. But in this century in Argentina only two presidents succeeded in completing their terms in this palace, in the Casa Rosada.

[Alfonsin] Look, in Russia too, the czars were ruling up to 1917, but then something suddenly happened and everything has changed completely.

[Sugar] Let us hope you will succeed. Now I would like to ask a few questions connected with foreign policy. How do American-Argentine relations stand now after the experiences in connection with the Malvinas Islands, the Falkland Islands?

[Alfonsin] We hope that these relations are going to be the best possible, not forgetting, of course, that we have not only common interests but different, even contradictory interests. We want to maintain good relations with every country without any ideological or other form of discrimination.

[Sugar] Including Great Britain?

[Alfonsin] Well, in order to have better relations with Great Britain, it has to return the Falklands to us, and as soon as possible.

[Sugar] Are you having talks with Great Britain on the islands?

[Alfonsin] A British note mailed to us through the Swiss Embassy affords an opportunity for talks. We shall probably answer this note today.

[Sugar] What is in this note?

[Alfonsin] It seeks a way to start talks, mainly on problems of commerce. We believe we cannot disregard the fact that Argentina should continue to voice its undisputed rights and should demand the islands back.

[Sugar] Mr President, the Western press has recently been writing about the Argentine nuclear bomb.

[Alfonsin] No, no. There is no such thing. We work for world peace.

[Sugar] Then why don't you want to sign the agreement against nuclear proliferation?

[Alfonsin] Because this treaty discriminates. It discriminates between countries having the nuclear bomb and countries that do not have bomb, which serves aims that we do not share. But we are convinced that the world needs peace. We want to work for disarmament, for detente.

[Sugar] So you can guarantee that there will be no Argentine nuclear bomb during your presidency?

[Alfonsin] I can assure you in front of the country and the world.

[Sugar] There is a lot of talk nowadays about the good example Argentina could show in South America. In your neighboring countries there are dictatorial regimes like the ones in Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, and so forth.

[Alfonsin] I hope we can make all the peoples and governments of Latin America realize that the only road to progress is democracy.

[Sugar] Let me ask you a personal question, Mr President. If in a few years, one day perhaps, the caste of military officers were to attack this palace, the Casa Rosada, what would you do? Would you act as Salvador Allende did, who defended the Constitution with a weapon in hand?

[Alfonsin] This is totally inconceivable in Argentina. There is no chance whatsoever here to brake the process of democratization. A hundred years of peace lie ahead of us. We have a hundred years of prosperity, democracy, social justice, and freedom before us.

[Sugar] I hope you are right, Mr President.

BRIEFS

NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH ECUADOR -- Caracas, 13 Jan (TELAM) -- The Argentine and Ecuadoran national atomic energy commissions today in Caracas signed an agreement of common action regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The agreement was signed by Argentine representative Alejandro Placer and Ecuadoran representative Julio Molineros, who are in Venezuela attending the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission meetings. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2211 GMT 13 Jan 84 PY]

NEW ARMY APPOINTMENTS -- Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (TELAM) -- Today Brigadier General Braulio Sanchez Avalos, Army inspector general, swore in Colonel Juan Etchepare as the new director of the Military College, to replace Brigadier General Mario Sanchez, recently appointed chief of intelligence of the joint staff. Also today the Army under secretary, Brigadier General Enrique Otino, swore in Colonel Simon Nicolas Arguello as director general of the Army Secretariat. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1803 GMT 14 Feb 84 PY]

COB CALLS 'STATE OF ALERT' OVER COUP RUMORS

PY232340 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2317 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] La Paz, 23 Feb (EFE) -- Today Bolivian workers were placed in a state of alert in the face of widespread rumors of a possible coup against President Hernan Siles Zuazo. The Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) called for a mobilization of workers in view of the "presumed plotting of coups by right-wing civilian and military sectors seeking to disrupt the democratic process," COB leaders have reported.

Vargas Salinas, ADN 'Involved'

PY240105 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0006 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpt] La Paz, 23 Feb (EFE) -- Bolivian workers were today placed in a state of alert to prevent another coup d'etat.

The "red alert" was called by the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) in the face of renewed rumors about the presumed plotting of a coup against the democratic process which President Hernan Siles Zuazo has been leading for the past 17 months. Gonzalo Guzman, a COB leader, said that the COB, the main Bolivian union organization, has called for a general mobilization of all labor sectors to counter any subversive movement that might attempt to do away with the state of law.

Guzman accused Colonel Mario Vargas Salinas, former minister during the administration of General Hugo Banzer Suarez (1971-1978) and current director of personnel of the Armed Forces, of leading this subversive movement. After a plenary meeting, the COB announced that it will adopt the appropriate measures against those "regressive right-wing and military groups which are seeking to seize power." Guzman added that the unions have confidential information about presumed subversive plans by military sectors which are instigated by right-wing parties.

Other union leaders charged Vargas Salinas with having told other officers that "there will be news in Bolivia soon and that they should stay home." The COB has charged the right-wing Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN) of former President Banzer, which placed third in the 1980 general elections, with being involved in the plotting. The COB also charged ADN leaders with instigating and supporting the indefinite transportation strike called today in Bolivia "in a move to destabilize democracy."

TRANSPORT STRIKE PARALYZES; MNR-H IN COUP

PY232145 Paris AFP in Spanish 1943 GMT 23 Feb 84

[By Andres Soliz Rada]

[Excerpt] La Paz, 23 Feb (AFP) -- Bolivia was paralyzed again today, this time by a general and indefinite stoppage of the public transport sector. This strike takes place only 48 hours after the government managed to overcome the national stoppage held by the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB).

In order to overcome the COB national stoppage, the government issued more than 20 decrees, which included such varied subjects as salary increases and the monopoly for the marketing of minerals granted to the Bolivian Mining Corporation (COMIBOL), where the workers have a majority participation in its co-management.

This situation prompted Planning Minister Roberto Jordan Pando to say that the democratic regime must constantly modify its economic policy due to the stoppages, road blockades, hunger strikes, and other pressure tactics.

The tense social atmosphere became evident last night when Jorge Kolle Cueto, secretary of the co-governing Bolivian Communist Party (PCB-Pro-Soviet), denounced in the plenary room of Congress that the coup d'etat mechanism has started operating and that congressmen of the Historic Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR-H), headed by Victor Paz Estenssoro, three times president of Bolivia, were involved.

CABINET SHUFFLE NOT DISCUSSED AT UDP MEETING

PY231435 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The UDP [Democratic and Popular Unity] Executive Board has met in order to seek greater political consistency, said Luis Ossio Sanjines, a leader of the Christian Democratic Party. Sanjines agreed with the statements made by the Communist Party representative, Marcos Domic.

This meeting was held at the Government Palace and was chaired by Hernan Siles Zuazo. During the meeting, the decrees recently issued by the Executive Branch were themselves evaluated as well as their impact on the labor sector.

It was said that during the meeting President Siles set up the guidelines to find, as soon as possible, a greater political consistency in order to overcome the difficulties resulting from the economic crisis.

No cabinet reshuffle was discussed, the spokesman stated.

SILES ZUAZO DISCUSSES DOMESTIC, FOREIGN POLICIES

PM161654 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 10 Feb 84 p 6

[Interview with Bolivian President Siles Zuazo by special correspondent Juan Gonzalez Yuste in Caracas -- no date given]

[Text] Question: The atmosphere of popular enthusiasm in which you attained power when the democratic system was restored in October 1982 has given way to a wave of strikes and protests. Does this constitute a danger to democracy in Bolivia?

Answer: The economic crisis weighs very heavily on the country, but despite that there is complete unanimity both in the government and in the opposition, whether rightwing or leftwing, on maintaining the democratic system, and that explains why, even in the midst of this crisis, we have had 16 months of complete freedom, without any restriction, of all democratic rights and, of course, of human rights.

Question: Your government is being criticized by both employers and the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB). Isn't that placing you in a virtually untenable situation?

Answer: Those criticisms demonstrate the correctness of our stance: Neither the employers nor the trade unionists are satisfied. The people know that we will only emerge from the crisis through the efforts of all Bolivians, and that not just one sector -- the most oppressed -- should bear the current difficulties, but that they should be shared by everyone.

"We Will Form a Government With a Broad Popular Base"

Question: How do you intend to surmount the current political crisis?

Answer: We have now said that we want a political truce in order to achieve a national solution to the current economic problems. In 15 days we will present a 4-year program for economic and social development without dependence. The response to that could be the formation of a government with a broad popular base. On the basis of this program, it can be considered that the new government will be formed between February and March.

Question: And will that plan serve to silence the demands for wage increases?

Answer: It is very difficult in an underdeveloped country affected by the world economic crisis to adequately meet the people's demands at a time when our output and mineral prices have fallen and when pressures from strikes, whether hunger strikes or trade union strikes, and demands for wage increases frequently arise. If output increases, then there would be a basis, a foundation for increasing wages, but if that increased output does not materialize, any wage hike will mean greater inflation.

Question: Does the COB, headed by Lechin, understand that?

Answer: Not always. When we negotiate with the COB leaders and put forward a specific proposal, they do not make us a counterproposal, they merely issue demands. Right now we have reached an agreement with great difficulty, but bearing in mind that the purchasing power of that agreement will soon disappear, we will return to the same situation if we are really not able to increase our output.

Question: Isn't there any saber-rattling in Bolivia?

Answer: The sabers have been put away for a long time now. The Armed Forces have identified with the national interest and have recently reiterated their resolve to support the Bolivian democratic process. And the fact is that in the past those who dictated the guidelines of policy from a unilateral position were the military, but now command over the Armed Forces rests with the military personnel who took part on our side in the resistance; hence the Army's identification with the Bolivian people. Today it is clear that in Bolivia, as the Constitution states, the president of the republic is commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

"Spain Could Be a Good Advocate for Us"

Question: Along with six other Latin American heads of state and the Spanish prime minister, you have signed the Caracas Declaration. How do you assess this document?

Answer: The Caracas Declaration is a response representing what the peoples of this part of the world want. It marks a move away from saber-rattling -- that is, from military governments -- and the possibility of a democratic international.

Question: How do you view Spain's also signing the declaration?

Answer: I believe that Spain's presence is a very positive evolution in our international policy and that it is also viewed sympathetically and as a stance concerned essentially with uniting and surmounting problems created by distance.

Question: Do you believe that Spain's entry into the EEC could be beneficial for Latin America?

Answer: Spain's entry into the EEC could bring Latin America more benefits than disadvantages. Spain could be a kind of driving belt or bridge between Europe and Latin America, especially because other European countries do not know us since they do not have the traditional tie which Spain has. You could be good advocates for us.

Question: The Caracas Declaration supports Bolivia's desire for an outlet to the sea. What is the current state of this issue?

Answer: We will not resume relations with Chile until there is a definite guarantee that the underlying problem will be discussed. People abroad do not understand this, because it is something natural; all peoples live on the sea and cannot imagine their lives without the sea, yet in Bolivia's case the situation is totally different. There is more wealth at the bottom of the sea than on the earth's surface, in addition to food from the sea. It is something that we always have on our minds and in our feelings, that this situation is unfair and that it must be changed. The sea is mankind's common heritage. We used to have a 400-km coast, which was usurped from us in an unjust war.

Question: How does your government view the struggle against drug trafficking?

Answer: We argue that, just as drug trafficking is carried out by an international mafia, so also the response should be international, especially since it is a problem that concerns not sovereignty but the world's interest. We said at the meeting held here in Caracas on the occasion of the bicentenary of Bolivia's birth that we cocaine-producing countries could undertake joint action with the prospect of the United States also joining in, and we reiterated this recently at a meeting with the U.S. secretary of state. To combat drug trafficking internationally makes sense.

Question: And the problem of the foreign debt?

Answer: We also proposed at that meeting negotiating the foreign debt jointly. By contrast with the Paris Club, the rich countries' club, we said: Let us form the poor countries' club, and that is something that is increasingly finding support among our peoples. The Quito Economic Conference came after our proposal for the renegotiation of the Latin American foreign debt. What we need is more credits in order to create wealth and be able to repay what we owe. We cannot repay the debt until we are enabled to do so. Moreover, the debts which were contracted in the past come mostly from expenditure by dictatorial regimes which squandered resources in order to arm themselves and accumulate scrap...

BRIEFS

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES -- The National Statistics Institute has published the results of a poll taken in all departmental capitals during the period April-September 1983 that shows that among an economically active population of 653,304 people, 77,681 were unemployed, that is, 11.89 percent. [Summary] [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Feb 84 PY]

SARAIVA MEETS NICARAGUAN RECONSTRUCTION MINISTER

PY231935 Paris AFP in Spanish 0419 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Brasilia, 22 Feb (AFP) -- Brazil shares the international community's opinion that the United States does not have any reasons or excuses left to continue with its policy of aggression against Nicaragua, Edmundo Jarquin, minister of the International Reconstruction Fund of Nicaragua, revealed here today. Jarquin made his statement at the end of a meeting he held with Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro and economic authorities. Jarquin added that the moving forward of presidential elections to November this year has undermined the U.S. maneuvers to make the Nicaraguan elections look like a farce.

Jarquin said that the Sandinist government understands the Brazilian position regarding the Central American conflict and its unwillingness to participate in the negotiations conducted by the Contadora Group. However, the Nicaraguan minister stressed that "we appreciate the fact that Brazil firmly supports the Contadora Group actions, although it does not get directly involved in the negotiations."

During the meetings with Brazilian economic authorities, Jarquin obtained loans totalling $10 million to purchase Brazilian-made equipment for the transportation and energy sectors.

GLEMP ADMITS 'PROBLEMS' WITH COMMUNIST REGIMES

PY240005 Porto Alegre Radio Quaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Porto Alegre -- During an interview granted shortly after landing at Salgado Filho Airport this afternoon, Polish Primate Cardinal Jozef Glemp explained that since there are no rich persons in his country, the church's concern is directed to the less privileged.

Jozef Glemp admitted that the church has problems with the governments of communist countries, but pointed out that this does not mean it is totally divorced. The Polish primate refused to make any comments on the church-state relationship in Brazil.

Cardinal Glemp is currently holding mass in the Nossa Senhora Monte Claro Church and at 2030 will attend a dinner party at the [name indistinct]. Tomorrow he will visit Archbishop (Claudio Borem) and Cardinal Vicente Scherer.

VICE PRESIDENT CHAVES CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT

PY231106 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Vice President Aureliano Chaves yesterday reiterated in Sao Paulo his criticism of some sectors of the government, but reasserted that this does not mean he is asking with President Joao Figueiredo. Vice President Chaves reiterated his position to seek an understanding, announcing that he now wants to talk with the workers: "I believe that there will be no difficulty, because nobody is reluctant to engage in a dialogue at this time." Upon his arrival in Rio de Janeiro, where he met with former President Ernesto Geisel and former Social Security Minister Helio Beltrao, Chaves noted that both the public and the press must monitor the electoral process to ensure that it will go on smoothly. He said that politicians have to present their ideas for public debate in a clear manner, because "this is fundamental."

RALLY FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS SCHEDULED 24 FEB

PY231257 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] As part of the campaign for a direct ballot system, between 150,000 and 200,000 people are expected to attend tomorrow's rally in Belo Horizonte. During this rally, 8 of the 10 opposition governors will speak. The rally is scheduled to start at 1700. Before it starts, Minas Gerais Governor Tancredo Neves will meet with his peers -- those present in Belo Horizonte -- at Liberdade Palace. Caravans from more than 300 municipalities of Minas Gerais State are expected.

EMBRAER PREPARING TO ASSEMBLE PLANES IN EGYPT

PY231449 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 Feb 84 p 16

[Text] A team of EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Enterprise] experts is already in Egypt to begin remodeling one of the 16 industrial units of the Arab Organization for Industrialization (AOI) where the Tucano planes ordered by the Egyptian Air Force will be assembled. The plant where EMBRAER will assemble these planes is located in Qader, Heliopolis, a Cairo satellite city. This information was provided by EMBRAER President Colonel Osires Silva. The Brazilian team is to study the layout of the assembly lines and the tools to be used, as well as to recruit Egyptian technicians who will receive training at Sao Jose dos Campos, where the EMBRAER parent plant is located in Brazil. This training program has a $2.3-million price tag, one of the largest ever signed abroad by a Brazilian company.

'OFF-RECORD' ECONOMIC ACTIVITY INCREASING

PY230132 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 Feb 84 p 16

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo -- The "off-record economy" -- transactions outside the formal channels for taxation and marketing -- today represents 6.7 percent of the gross domestic product [GDP] of Brazil. This off-record economy, therefore, involves nearly $16.4 billion, or 18.4 trillion cruzeiros, with the participation of 10 million people, which is 20 percent of the economically active population of 50 million. This preliminary estimate of the "off-record economy" was disclosed yesterday in Sao Paulo by the president of the Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute (IBGE), Jose Montello, who considered this to be a "conservative" estimate. In September the IBGE will release another study, breaking the figures of the "off-record economy" down by the country's regions and estimating how much it represents in terms of tax evasion.

Montello explained the method used for calculating the volume of the "off-record economy." He based the survey on the principle that off-record transactions are generally carried out in cash, while regular market operations are transacted using bank checks. Using the Peter Gutmann method, comparing the amount of currency in the hands of the public and the amount of demand desposits in banks, the IBGE came up with the following results: Over the 1973-75 period, currency in the hand of the public represented an average of 20.69 percent of the demand deposits. This average climbed to 22.99 percent over the 1976-81 period until reaching 29.09 in 1983. The "off-record economy" represented only 1.78 percent of the GDP in 1976, the year in which it first became measurable. Thereafter it grew to 5.48 percent of the GDP in 1982, and to 6.94 percent in 1983.

MINISTER CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. COPPER POLICY

PY231146 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The Chilean Government is deeply concerned about the virtual economic boycott U.S. copper companies have proposed on Chilean copper exports. Mines Minister Samuel Lira has disclosed that the former Chilean ambassador to the United States will defend Chile before the International Trade Commission [ITC]. The minister confirmed that former Ambassador and former Minister Enrique Valenzuela has agreed to head the commission in charge of defending Chile in this field.

[Begin Lira recording] On Thursday and Friday, 1 and 2 March, the CIPEC [Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries] Executive Committee will meet in Paris to analyze specifically the measures and actions CIPEC will adopt to defend Chile's interests. We hope that during this meeting CIPEC will decide to participate directly in the defense of the interests of copper exporting countries before the ITC. [end recording]

The minister was asked what the consequences would be if the U.S. copper companies' request to set a ceiling on Chilean exports is accepted.

[Begin Lira recording] From the pessimistic point of view, if a limit is set on copper exports, the copper destined for the U.S. market would have to be sold to other markets and this would obviously alter the price. It is difficult to say what consequences this measure would have in Chile, since we do not know how it will affect copper prices in the rest of the world. In the United States, copper prices would obviously increase. [end recording]

The mines minister confirmed that most of the largest U.S. enterprises support this decision.

[Begin Lira recording] Yes, I would say that most U.S. enterprises support this request. [end recording]

The mines minister also said that the final decision is in the U.S. President's hands.

[Begin Lira recording] This decision must be taken by the U.S. Government, specifically by the U.S. President. Therefore, U.S. Government authorities will be given the necessary information and pertinent measures will be taken to defend the Chilean position, pointing out how this measure will affect not only Chile but also the rest of the world, only giving relative benefit to the United States. [end recording]

The minister was then asked whether the U.S. companies' position had a political origin.

[Begin Lira recording] I see no political reason for this decision; it is rather of an economic nature. The U.S. copper companies are not able to compete with international copper prices; therefore, they are trying to solve economic problems, which are production costs, caused by the recession that has affected copper prices. [end recording]

Lira was also asked what is the main point Chile will defend.

[Begin Lira recording] We are going to advocate that from the sociopolitical point of view, a leading country in free trade, such as the United States, cannot establish a protectionist measure of this nature. This measure will alter U.S. internal trade, especially the price value relationship of merchandise in the United States. [end recording]

Minister Lira ended by disclosing that on 7 March Chile will defend the country's position before the commission and that CODELCO [Chile Copper Corporation] has hired a staff of lawyers to handle the legal aspects of this issue.

DEFENSE MINISTRY DENIES U.S. ARMS PURCHASE

PY231152 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The Chilean Defense Ministry has stated that Peruvian press reports that Chile has allegedly purchased nuclear missiles from the United States are completely false. In a communique signed by Defense Minister Patricio Carvajal, the Defense Ministry notes that this slander campaign has not ended despite the fact that the Peruvian president has stated that he does not believe these reports. It adds that the campaign has continued with the apparent objective of creating an uncertain atmosphere and of promoting an arms race. The communique notes that the Chilean Armed Forces do not plan to threaten anyone and that their only objective is to effectively defend the nation against any aggressor.

OPPOSITION ON MATTHEI'S COMMENTS ON BILL

PY231956 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Opposition leaders have voiced their satisfaction over the statements made by General Matthei, who said that he had reservations about the antiterrorist bill.

Former Chilean Ambassador Luis Henriquez, who has returned from 10 years of exile in Venezuela, said that General Matthei never made any definite statements. However, what he said yesterday is quite true. Matthei has shown that he is aware of the situation, but then makes ambiguous comments. However, I find his opinions very positive.

[Begin Luis Henriquez recording] His statements also reveal a new line of thought in the Armed Forces: that they have become more tolerant, that they themselves realize that this antiterrorist law will promote state terrorism and this is what they fear. I think his statements are very positive. [end recording]

Former Senator Alberto Jerez said that he thought that General Matthei's statements support and justify the concern of a vast sector of the citizenry not only regarding the content but also the implementation of an antiterrorist law. (Carlos Biores), interior minister during President Allende's government, pointed out the need for General Matthei to explain what reservations he has about the antiterrorist bill. Jaime Inzunza, secretary general of the Peoples Democratic Movement, said that the law should really be called a terrorist law since it seeks to protect state terrorism.

BRIEFS

ARMORED TRUCK IN PRODUCTION -- A new armored truck, the VPT-1 Orca for the support of armored and mechanized infantry forces, will start production in Iquique. The armored truck was designed in Chile. It can carry 16 men and move at 110 km per hour. It has a six-cylinder water-cooled engine capable of 2,800 revolutions per minute with a five-speed automatic transmission. It can go 1,000 km with its 400-liter fuel tank. Its armor is thick enough to withstand ammunition up to 7.62 mm. The truck can also carry a 105-mm or a 155-mm gun. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Feb 84 pp C1, C4 PY]

FARC URBAN FRONT REVEALS INTERNAL PROBLEMS

PA221516 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Feb 84 pp 1, 3

[Article by Alvaro Almanza]

[Text] A deep division in the general staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the People's Army (FARC-EP), endangering the agreement between this subversive group and the Peace Commission, has been revealed in a clandestine communique issued by the Ricardo Franco urban front. The communique states that people have been executed within the group as a result of the strained relations between Commanders Jacobo Arenas and Alfonso Cano and the rest of the organization, which is led by Manuel Marulanda Velez and Martin Villa.

According to the communique published in EL SIGLO, FARC is losing a large number of militants, and even several regional groups, who do not agree with the tactics being used by Jacobo Arenas and Alfonso Cano. There has been strong criticism of the general staff, reportedly because "it has become a bureaucratic and administrative apparatus, a religious sect full of saints and gods; because of this, their words and deeds are holy, even when they oppose the organization."

The Ricardo Franco urban front states that Commander Alfonso Cano "has been imposed in the usual way, through the arbitrary use of the leadership, into the movement's secretariat. He holds as much power as a 77 star general, yet he appeared from nowhere and he makes more decisions than Comrade Marulanda Velez."

The FARC urban front states that although it has been operating for the last 3 and 1/2 years, there is an effort to eliminate it through "the existing bureaucratic hierarchy," just as more than eight urban commissions have been eliminated.

In reference to Jacobo Arenas, who calls himself one of the top leaders of the FARC, the communique states: "His lack of prestige in the movement is very great, but he has 'power' and he does as he pleases with it; he commits atrocities." The Ricardo Franco urban front, which is at odds with some FARC general staff members, states that it will continue its actions supporting the decisions of Manuel Marulanda Velez Tirofijo and Martin Villa.

Thus, the agreement being studied by government representatives to establish definite peace in the country could have some problems, because although John Agudelo Rios, president of the Peace Commission, said in recent statements that the FARC is the most unified of the revolutionary groups, it apparently faces grave internal problems, especially with the Ricardo Franco urban front.

NEW GUERRILLA AMBUSHES CLAIM MORE LIVES

Four Soldiers Killed

PA201253 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Bucaramanga -- Army patrols are pursuing members of a guerrilla cell that ambushed a military patrol, killing four soldiers and seriously wounding six others.

Troops of the 4th Brigade are combing the mountainous region of Araujo Port, where the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] guerrillas perpetrated the bloody attack. Soldiers are thoroughly searching the area to find the guerrillas who killed several soldiers in a military convoy traveling from Cimitarra to Bucarmanga.

General (Faru Villamil Diaz) said that the rebels attacked the military column with rifle and machine gun fire, and also with (MK-2) fragmentation grenades.

The dead and wounded are now being evacuated to Bucaramanga, while the guerrillas are being pursued in the mountains.

One Killed, Seven Wounded

PA222224 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Feb 84 p 3-A

[Gustavo Ramirez O. report]

[Text] Medellin, 19 Feb -- A soldier has been killed and seven others wounded in two ambushes staged by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, guerrillas. The ambushes took place in the jungle areas of Santander and Antioquia Departments against 4th Brigade troops stationed at Puerto Berrio. The first attack occurred on the banks of La Tigre Creek, near Remedios village, when a FARC Fourth Front group surprised an antiguerrilla command. Brigade Commander General Faruck Yanine Diaz said that the rebels killed Private Jose Hernan Aristizabal. In Cimitarra, the FARC's 11th Front opened fire on a military convoy. Seven men were wounded, including Lieutenant Miguel Humberto Preciado Molina and Sergeant Luis Eduardo Londono Castrillon. Fourth Brigade troops fell prey to an ambush by rebels in Puerto Araujo Corregimiento at Cascajales. The FARC's 11th Front apparently fired on three Army vehicles carrying Bombona Battalion soldiers on an official mission. In a communique, General Diaz confirmed that, in addition to Preciado Molina and Londono Castrillon, Privates Juan Carlos Arana Medina, Jose Manuel Gonzalez Gutierrez, Holmes Rodriguez Rincon, and Julio Cesar Ramirez Linderos were also wounded. The guerrillas were not able to seize any war materiel in the attack, which occurred at 2100 on Saturday. General Diaz did not disclose whether the guerrillas suffered any casualties.

FARC LEADER FLEES WITH 40 MILLION PESOS

PA192123 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Feb 84 p 3-D

[Text] Army sources in Bogota have revealed that Jose Fedor Rey, national financial chief for the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] has reportedly fled the group, taking 40 million pesos with him. Fedor Rey, alias "Raul," went to Santander, where he used the money to form the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Colombia, FALCO, which has claimed credit for recent kidnappings in that part of the country. "Raul" deserted the FARC after bitter confrontations with Jacobo Arenas, a high-level FARC leader, according to military sources. In a pamphlet confiscated by military intelligence, Fedor Rey said that he will follow FARC policies and will give unrestricted support to "Tirofijo," [FARC leader Manuel Marulanda Velez], but declared that he disagrees with Arenas' policies.

The story came to light after Luis Alberto Gasca, alias "Aladin," head of the FARC's first team, and Gonzalo Nieto, a financial assistant, were captured in Bogota late last year.

According to the Army, a document taken from these subversives revealed that Gasca had contracted the services of an airline for 60,000 pesos for a trip from San Jose del Guaviare to Guaymaral Airport in Bogota. The insurgent subsequently went to San Juan del Sumapaz, and from there to Paisa de Palo, from where he was taken to the Ucrania region in Meta, the site of a recent summit of FARC guerrilla leaders. According to the sources, the FARC decided at this meeting to create a new front in Araracuara and to combine the 4th and 12th teams with the 25th, which is currently active in Antioquia, particularly in the Middle Magdalena region. The Army also has documents revealing that the FARC outlined new strategies for carrying out the political-military struggle, in coordination with the People's Army, in areas like Middle Magdalena, where the mass mobilization of peasants has been promoted.

PATRIA BELITTLES PRF RALLY AT PLAZA ITALIA

PY211627 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 20 Feb 84 p 5

[Editorial: "And Now Democratization of Parties"]

[Text] Following the mini-meeting at the Plaza Italia, the radical opposition sector must realize that it lacks any popular support, that its plans to establish a people's dictatorship or of holding an autocratic rally are of no interest to anyone other than those belonging to its cliques, and that its only alternative is to democratize itself; democratization is the only alternative. It is a political reality that has clearly shown that behind the Febrerist banners, behind the dissident factions of large parties, and behind the Christian Democracy -- which was neither born nor aborted -- there is nothing, nothing coherent, nothing constructive, nothing to contribute to representative democracy, and nothing that will make it become a link to achieve better understanding between the republican government and the people's will.

The experience resulting from this 17 February, 48 years after the other 17 February, which also resulted in failure after being an ephemeral hope of redemption and freedom, clearly shows that its obstinate perseverance is useless, that its persistence in making errors cannot be disguised by assuming democratic appearances. The Febrerist movement, which lacks civic attraction and popular support, has once again seen that it cannot overcome its isolation by indiscriminately mingling with other parties, because popular political opinion trends are aware that they have nothing to gain and a lot to lose if they unite with an erratic minority with an uncertain, circumstantial, and opportunistic ideology which history shows is inclined to radicalization and extremism, the other face of autocracy and totalitarism.

But the dramatic paradox of the Febrerist Party is that while it has called its first public rally and learned to its astonishment and perplexity that it lacks popular support, the PRF president, who is embarked in a crusade which should have had a better fate, states in Madrid under the shelter of Spanish socialism and the Socialist International that it is the government headed by President Stroessner and the Colorado Party that lacks total popular support. The Spanish saying "to see the speck in another's eye and not the gleam in one's own" would be suitable on this occasion.

Perhaps the vast international satellite network has not yet informed the Spanish and French circles that the PRF leader wants to impress about the absolute failure of what was to be the keystone of the "people's front", acting on orders from Paris and Madrid. Perhaps they are still unaware that this meeting ended in the pre-dawn hours only after uselessly waiting for hours for more people, who never did show up. However, independent newspapers do not agree with this: Some say 1,000 persons attended the meeting, while others say 2,000 and some even say 2,500. However, all these are rough estimates since the truth is that there were fewer people at the plaza than normally attend the open-air band concerts there. At best, there were no more people than at the most modest of Colorado Party precincts, and 10 times fewer than those at powerful Colorado Party precincts such as Colonel Oviedo, Ciudad Presidente Stroessner, or San Estanislao.

The PRF and PLRA members and the Christian Democrats are witnesses to this fact; although it is very unlikely that they are familiar with anything pertaining to the interior of the country since their alleged grassroots are confined to Asuncion.

But this fraud has been discovered and, as we stated in our previous commentary, it is high time this masquerade ended. The time for the radical opposition sector to democratize itself is inexorably here since this is the only alternative it has left if it is to survive. This is so because a party like the PRF, which lacks popular support and is caught between the contradictions of its background and its prospects, has no other alternative than to democratize so as to redeem itself by abandoning those principles contained in its "revolutionary" origins -- Nazi-fascist first, and Marxist later, but always based on people's fronts -- so that it may realize that neither alone nor united with other parties can it achieve popular support or fill a plaza with supporters.

As for the party factions, their place is with their parties and their proper path is adhering to their respective party statutes since political parties now have constitutional "status". They have clearly defined roles and duties and should act in keeping with the representative democratic republican system, which prohibits them from violating the Constitution. The other alternative is for other parties to recognize them, but this would be senseless in view of the deficiencies of the PRF and the insurmountable problems of Christian Democracy. At any rate, as factions, they should begin realizing that even by using similar names and resorting to divisive plans, they will not achieve anything, since the people, who have experienced normalcy and stability and who are witnesses of the democratic opening, will not change something certain for something uncertain, nor will they follow the adventures of those of the Plaza Italia, who got what they deserved for slandering democracy and for being unable to democratize themselves.

BRIEFS

MILITARY ATTACHES REPLACED -- The government yesterday resolved to replace several military attaches serving as embassies in South American countries. To that effect, several decrees were promulgated by the executive branch. Decree No 2561 appoints Colonel Rogelio Levy Acuna military attache to the embassy in Santiago, Chile, replacing Colonel Emilio Osvaldo Balbuena. Decree No 2562 appoints Colonel Corsino Allende Serviano military attache to the embassy in Venezuela, replacing Colonel Federico Ruben Campos. Decree No 2563 appoints Colonel Pablo Festchenko military attache to the embassy in Peru, replacing Colonel Carlos E. Maggi. By Decree No 2564, Colonel Dario Gonzalez Duarte is replaced by Colonel Alberto Poisson Ferreira as military attache to the embassy in Uruguay. By Decree No 2565, Colonel Valentin Leguizamon is replaced by Colonel Dario Antonio Franco Flores as military attache to the embassy in Brazil. Decree No 2566 appoints Colonel Agustin Sanchez Rodriguez military attache to the embassy in Argentina, replacing Colonel Dionisio Chavez Altuman. [Text] [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Feb 84 p 10 PY]

BELAUNDE MEETS ALVA, DISCUSSES PARTY MATTERS

PY231455 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] President Belaunde tonight held a 1-hour meeting with Javier Alva Orlandini, secretary general of Popular Action [AP]. Belaunde said that the meeting was fruitful.

Meanwhile, AP members and sympathizers have launched the presidential candidacy of Manuel Ulloa for the 1985 presidential elections. At the conclusion of the meeting with the president, Javier Alva said that he had no presidential aspirations, and that in any case his candidacy would be decided by his party.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What is the objective of the meeting you just held with Alva Orlandini, and the meeting you are going to hold with Senator Manuel Ulloa? Is it aimed at achieving greater unity and strength within the party?

[Belaunde] We discussed politics in general and the government. They are interested as much as I am about the government. Alva is second vice president of the Republic. They are both senators. Ulloa has been prime minister. Therefore, my contacts with them are related to national interests and current activities. We also discussed party matters. I believe this exchange of ideas was very fruitful because it involved two people who do not always see things from the same viewpoint, but who look at them with a profound sense of patriotism. [end recording]

Will Back AP Candidate

PY231400 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpt] President Belaunde has said that he will back the presidential candidate elected by Popular Action [AP]. Belaunde said that as AP president, he will back the presidential candidate democratically elected by his party for the 1985 elections. The chief of state added that AP has several presidential candidates: Javier Alva Orlandini, Javier Arias Stella, Manuel Ulloa Elias, and Eduardo Orrego Villacorta. In response to a question asking if Javier Alva Orlandini should leave the position of AP secretary general if he becomes a presidential candidate, Belaunde said that the position of secretary general has many functions and that they have little importance in the party's internal elections.

'TERRORISTS' BOMB SENATE PRESIDENT'S HOME

PY231827 Paris AFP in Spanish 1614 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Lima, 23 Feb (AFP) -- The police have reported that this morning an explosive device was thrown at the home of Peruvian Senate President Ricardo Monteagudo, a member of the ruling Popular Action party. It also reported that the device caused little damage. General Alberto Suarez, chief of Lima's Civil Guard, said that six terrorists, in a light blue car, threw the bomb, catching by surprise the policemen who were standing guard as required by the regulations to protect high-ranking officials and members of the diplomatic corps. Gen Suarez added that the terrorists, among whom apparently there were two women, managed to flee and that they are being sought.

COLOMBIA'S LLOREDA ARRIVES, VIEWS U.S. POLICY

FL240146 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2233 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 23 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The resignation of Richard Stone, the U.S. roving ambassador for Central American affairs, will not upset the Contadora Group's peace efforts, Colombia's Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo has stressed. What would be serious, he said, is a change in U.S. policy and an intensification of the problem, which is why the Contadora Group is waiting to see what sort of policy the new U.S. ambassador will follow. Interviewed on his arrival at the capital's airport, where he was met by Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and Colombian Ambassador to Mexico Ignacio Umana, the Colombian foreign minister said he opposes the supply of war materiel to Central American nations, wherever their point of origin may be.

Referring to the elections in Nicaragua, the diplomat stressed that this is not a condition to bring peace to the area, but a commitment the Sandinist junta made when it overthrew the government of Anastasio Somoza. The Colombian foreign minister announced that the findings of the commissions formed in Panama -- during the last meeting of the Contadora Group -- to evaluate the Central American economic, political, and social situation will not be known until the end of April.

DE LA MADRID DISCUSSES FOREIGN, DOMESTIC TOPICS

PA231200 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Feb 84 pp 1-A, 10-A

[By Aurora Berdejo Arvizu]

[Excerpts] President Miguel de la Madrid yesterday told foreign correspondents that the law will be applied without any pressure from domestic or international sectors in the ethical renewal of society. He said that the program should not be confused with a climate of terror or political scandal, a situation that "I know some people, both inside and outside the country," would like to see, to the detriment of the Mexican Government. He said further that if the government had not acted with determination and firmness to maintain control of public expenditures, the social cost of the crisis would have been worse.

He said that Mexico has not pulled back from its foreign policy, although "maybe it has assumed a more pragmatic attitude." He expressed the hope that the U.S. Government can be convinced, as the people of the United States are, that military intervention in the Central America area, far from solving the area's problems, would only make them worse and extend them throughout the continent. He suggested that the Kissinger commission "carefully read the Document of Objectives of the Contadora Group."

De la Madrid and the foreign correspondents met for 90 minutes in the Carranza Room at Los Pinos. Among the issues they discussed were Central America, the Kissinger commission report on the region, and the contradictions that could exist between the Kissinger commission and the Contadora Group.

He said that Mexico will continue struggling for world peace; for a total, balanced, and secure nuclear disarmament; and for economic cooperation to overcome the present world crisis and establish the bases for a firmer and more equitable development.

In relation to the country's internal situation, he said that one of the main achievements of his first year of government was basically to have been able to maintain a climate of freedom and democracy, regarding which there was a time of doubt, both inside and outside of Mexico, because of the serious situation we were facing.

On economic and financial topics, he was asked about the possibility of making the rules for foreign investment more flexible. He said that it is not necessary to change the present law, and that the government is going to implement an active and selective policy in this sector, in order to promote the investments in which we are interested and which suit us best, and not just wait for promotions and proposals to come.

De la Madrid explained that the country reduced its imports not to follow a protectionist policy, like the industrialized countries have, but simply because of a lack of currency.

Regarding foreign financing that will be negotiated this year, he explained that the maximum will be $4 billion, that Mexico is reducing the growth rate of its foreign debt, and that "we are trying to get better terms regarding time and cost for the loans we are getting. Obviously, the interest rate of the debt is a significant burden to the state's finances and to our balance of payments."

Finally, when asked about the possibility of five leaders of the Basque Fatherland and Liberty, ETA, who are in some Latin American country, being openly admitted to Mexico, President De la Madrid answered:

"At this time there are no negotiations to receive ETA refugees in Mexico. Throughout its history, it has been a characteristic of Mexico to respect the right of asylum absolutely. But the right of asylum is very clear: It can only be granted to those persecuted for political reasons, and not to common criminals."

PSUM OPPOSES U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN C.A.

FL231646 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2254 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 22 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Rolando Cordera, deputy of the opposition Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM), stated here today that Mexican foreign policy in Central America is running into difficulty because of U.S. resistance. During an interview he gave to NOTIMEX, the coordinator of the PSUM faction in Congress criticized the countries that, because of their links to Central American oligarchies, do not look favorably upon the Mexican position in favor of peace that would open the doors to social justice and regional development. The PSUM -- considered the third most important political force in the nation -- supports the efforts of the Contadora Group, made up of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama, and insists on the need to block all U.S. attempts to intervene openly and more aggressively in Central America, the deputy said.

PEMEX ANNOUNCES CONTINUATION OF OIL PRICES

FL230051 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0250 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 20 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Pamex today announced its decision to maintain, for the 7th consecutive month, its current export prices of $29 per barrel of Isthmus crude and $25 for Maya crude. Pemex made the announcement in an official communique at the conclusion of a meeting chaired by Pemex Director General Mario Ramon Beteta, who is also a member of the Foreign Trade Committee for Crude Oil [Comite del Comercio Exterior del Petroleo Crudo -- COCEP] of the Mexican Government. Pemex also ratified the self-imposed export quota of 1.5 million barrels per day.

PAPO PRESIDENT ZUNIGA ADDRESSES POLITICAL RALLY

PA182157 Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish 0216 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Speech by Carlos Ivan Zuniga, president of the Peoples Action Party, at a party rally at the Santa Ana Plaza in Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts] Fellow countrymen, people of Santa Ana, here is the PAPO [Peoples Action Party] in its first presentation before the people.

An extraordinary convention proclaimed this ticket, which is led by me, along with Dr Manuel Garcia Almengor and Dr Doris de Mata. However, it was a closed-door convention and, although it was broadcast over the radio, it lacked a popular atmosphere. That is why we are now before the people. [applause]

Today we are here to introduce these candidates to the people, to have them blessed by the people in this temple of democracy, to ask the people to give the best of themselves to this popular candidacy, which is not marked by oligarchy or militarism, the two diabolical forces that have always burdened the Panamanian people. [applause]

We in PAPO have made a decision, which is to address the long-standing grievances of the people. We have committed ourselves to the legitimate banner of the people, who are tired of having so many problems. We have come here to assume this commitment.

Fellow countrymen, we are part of a troubled society, a society that realizes that it is becoming poorer each day, that gets poorer as it works harder each day, that sees the value of its money shrink every day because the same amount of money buys less; a troubled society with 16 years of military dictatorship, 16 years of demagoguery and lies. Our people have to bear the shame, or rather the misfortune, of not being able to give their youth a bright future. What hopes can this society give these youth when 25,000 of them enter the workforce each year and only 7,000 can find a job?

This government, which has trampled and killed the hopes of our people as well as humiliated them, has no right to ask to continue in office. Hence, in the face of this situation, it would not be right to subject the youth, who represent a voting majority of 60 percent of the electorate, to a return to the past or to subject them to the continuation of the current government.

Therefore, PAPO represents the alternative. We are the alternative because we want a bright future for the young. We are the alternative because we want to create a real institutional system in the country, a governmental structure, a government system that will give the people security. We want all Panamanians to feel certain that there will never be another military coup, which would bring a long night to the Panamanian people.

My fellow countrymen, we want to establish a constitutional system that will make us all proud to be Panamanians, not ashamed. [crowd chants slogans]

The world judges our country by events such as the one experienced in August 1 and 1/2 years ago or like the one experienced 2 days ago. A year and a half ago the president told the world that he had resigned because he had a throat ailment. Two day ago another president resigned, without giving any explanation. This one resigned because he was silenced. I ask myself, can we find similar examples in the history of our country?

Can you imagine any of our past presidents, who were elected in one way or another by the people, leaving in the pages of history the fact that they left the presidency because of fictitious ailments?

The incidents surrounding these presidents, who were handpicked by the process, are the result of institutional instability, of the unfortunate times experienced by the country since 1968, ever since military power has prevailed here and the whims of the military have been more important than the strength of institutions.

The PAPO demands a legal state in which everyone knows what his rights and duties are, in which the Panamanians feel that their peace lies in the fulfillment of their duties, that their freedom and livelihood are guaranteed by the fulfillment of their duties. We do not want Panamanians ever to feel that their lives, their livelihoods, their right to live in peace, their rights to be respected, and their human rights depend on an officer's whim.

The military does not have a democratic temperament. The truth of the matter is that the military does not want democracy. The fact is that the military is doing everything possible to prevent the people from truly expressing themselves en masse at the polls. [applause]

The military believes that every politician was born yesterday. The military believes that all politicians and parties are stupid. We consider it significant that the official candidate was presented to the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] at the Tinajitas Garrison. What does that mean, Panamanian people? What does it mean when the General Staff meets with the PRD leadership in a garrison and tells the PRD leadership, this is your candidate?

We are going to wage a word-of-mouth campaign. Not one newspaper in Panama reported that this rally was going to be held. No Panamanian newspaper announced this ceremony, not even out of courtesy.

How did the people come to gather here? Through the work of our young militants, through the work of the PAPO youth. One sees them working with the spirit and enthusiasm of those who know that they have an ideal, that they are waging a true and honest struggle. [applause] We will remain in constant contact with the people in spite of the fact that the newspapers ignore us.

Only one newspaper published the nomination of the PAPO candidates. Just one. But we do not care. This is the way large popular movements begin. They are ignored by the biased interests, because everything the people uphold elicits an immediate declaration of war from the biased interests.

We are going to struggle against those interests. We are going to struggle until we achieve a system that is just. We want a just system for Panama; a system that has spiraling unemployment is not just.

We want to establish a private enterprise with a large traffic light, so private enterprise will know when its activities have the red light and when they have the green light. However, it must know that the green and red lights are not determined at the whim of military officers, but by the law. [crowd shouts slogans]

We want private property to feel secure, private enterprise to feel secure, in a state that is just. What we do not want any longer is for the military to feel that the state is its private property. [applause] What we do not want is for the military to continue to think that it owns the state. What we do not want is for the military to continue using the state and its resources like a private domain.

Companeros, fellow countrymen, this struggle is difficult. It is difficult because after 16 years of dictatorship a state of apathy has been created. When democracy is not practiced continually, the people succumb to apathy, the people become timorous. If this democratic blackout is accompanied by a systematic campaign by the military against the political class, then the parties and the politicians find it difficult to raise the spirit of the people.

This is the reason that only 2 months prior to the elections apathy is undermining the people's spirit. This is why we have taken to the streets, to raise these spirits, to awaken their souls, to start the snowball rolling. We have raised the banner of the struggle for democracy and against militarism because we believe that these are the principal objectives of the great national struggle. [applause]

We have been told that the struggle against militarism is very difficult because the military has an alliance with the United States for the defense of the canal. We have been told that the struggle will be difficult because the military has the bayonets. We have been told that the struggle against the military is very difficult because the people do not have money even to buy (?firecrackers) and because our people are cowards. I must say that PAPO is going to show that we can struggle against the military. [crowd shouts slogans]

When the Constitution was being reformed, we asked that those reforms not be approved, because that would only create further turmoil in the process. We asked the people to vote against the reforms. Those who defended the reforms said: We have a new Constitution. Dogmatically, they said that as a result of the reforms that which happened to [former President Aristides] Royo would not happen again because the reforms would ensure that the miliary returned to the garrisons. They said that Article 2 of the Constitution, which rendered the National Guard the owners of the state, was finished.

We responded that a new one was added -- I believe it is Article 269 -- which gave the National Guard incomprehensible power, in that it obtained the power to intervene in the country's life if, in its own judgment, reasons of security called for such intervention.

Panamanian people, our political objective is to create a great alliance with the people. The Panamanian people want change. The Panamanian people are in the opposition. [applause] The Panamanian people will follow the party and leaders who adequately reflect an opposition image. [applause]

We are the true opposition. We are not going to frustrate the people. We are not going to struggle against this regime simply to strike a deal with the system. We are going to sweep the system away. [applause]

We voice a fundamental truth when we say that we are not yet a powerful party. But we are growing, and we will become a powerful party. We are going to be this country's great party. If we go it alone, it is because we want to project the image of something new for this country of new people.

These are completely new people. Fully 62 percent of the population has never voted. (?Seventy-two) percent of the population is less than (?30) years old. This young population is PAPO's population. [applause] The young people are PAPO's fountain.

Panamanian people, we will be in San Miguelito next Wednesday, and we will speak with the people there. I don't yet know the place, but we will let you know. It will be at 1900 in San Miguelito. Starting tomorrow, we will go from house to house in San Miguelito to invite the people to join us. No one will stop us.

EL SALVADOR

PAISA DEPUTY AYALA SHOT BY UNIDENTIFIED MEN

PA240248 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1900 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Deputy Ismael Ayala from the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party, PAIS, was shot to death today at 0830 as he left his residence. According to reports, Deputy Ayala was going to board a vehicle in the America neighborhood when he was shot by unidentified men. Ayala's body was left where he fell until authorities began the investigations. This is the first report we have received on his political crime against a Legislative Assembly member.

COPREFA: FMLN KIDNAPPING TO REPLACE DESERTERS

PA240106 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, on 22 February in San Salvador]

[Text] According to former FMLN members, desertions from the terrorist groups have increased in the past few days because the men are tired, disillusioned, or what is even more serious, because of the poor sanitary conditions existing in the camps. The same sources said that near San Fernando, Joateca, and Corinto, in the northern part of Morazan Department, the extremist bands are suffering from contagious diseases that are rapidly spreading due to the unsanitary conditions. Many terrorists have deserted and many more will follow suit because of these conditions.

This situation has become a real problem for the commanders, who have had to resort to kidnapping youths to reinforce their troops, reduced in number by battles, illness, and desertions. The situation has reached the point that yesterday 44 people, most of them young men, were kidnapped in various parts of the country.

A total of 30 people were kidnapped from the villages of Santa Teresa, El Porvenir, and Aguacayo, in the municipalities of San Sebastian and Santo Domingo in San Vicente Department. Another 11 people were kidnapped in San Jose la Labor in San Sebastian municipality; four of them were taken from the village school. Three more youths were kidnapped in Los Laureles in San Sebastian municipality.

Meanwhile, members of the 4th Infantry Brigade found G-3 and FAL rifles abandoned in Las Crucitas, El Paisnal municipality by terrorists who had deserted from the FMLN.

GOVERNMENT, REBEL MILITARY ACTIVITY REPORTED

28 Rebels Killed

PA230323 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 22 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] San Miguel -- According to military reports, clashes have increased north of the Torola River, in Morazan Department, and in the area of San Gerardo, in San Miguel Department. The bodies of 10 guerrillas were found in the Torola area. It was also reported that the Army destroyed a clandestine hospital in the area.

Military sources reported yesterday afternoon that a patrol of the Cuscatlan Battalion that was combing an area northeast of San Gerardo found the bodies of 12 guerrillas and recovered 10 rifles. The reports said that the Armed Forces have been carrying out an operation since last weekend in the area where the bodies were found. Military sources said that the dead guerrillas were carried to the area by their companeros after they had been wounded in combat at other sites in the same region. The sources added that 28 terrorists have now been killed so far in the operation.

FMLN Takes Over Masahuat

PA240250 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] On 21 February, members of the Carlos Arias and Sergio Hernandez Battalions carried out the operation "Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977" within the framework of our vanguard's "All the People to Face the U.S. Intervention Until Victory" political-military campaign.

The operation included an attack on enemy positions in the town of Masahuat, Santa Ana Department. The garrison consisted of more than 60 soldiers from the 2d Infantry Brigade. Due to our overwhelming attack, the enemy sent reinforcements from 2d Infantry Brigade members stationed in Guajoya, Casitas, and Guarnecia. However, these forces could not prevent the FMLN takeover of Masahuat.

One of our groups ambushed the reinforcements and a fierce clash ensued, which halted and dispersed a company from the Pipil Battalion, which was advancing from Casitas toward Masahuat. During the clashes in Masahuat, we inflicted 25 casualties on the enemy, including 10 deaths. Among the casualties are a captain, a sergeant, and a local commander. The rest of the enemy forces, including an officer and two cadet first lieutenants, dispersed. The three officers were the first to flee the battlefield. Two paramilitary members were taken prisoner.

Here is the list of weapons recovered in Masahuat, Santa Ana Department: We took from the dictatorship's forces 10 G-3 rifles, 1 M-60 machine gun, 3 M-79 grenade launchers, 60 grenades, 1 90-mm cannon and 30 shells, 1 communication radio, 5 PRC-77 military communication radios. We also recovered much 5.56 and 7.62 caliber ammunition and other war equipment. The attack on the enemy positions in Masahuat represents an overwhelming blow to the enemy's rearguard, because the dictatorship considered this position in Santa Ana Department impregnable.

Further reports from Santa Ana Department state that after our attack on Masahuat, the dictatorship deployed its massive airborne forces. Three A-37 airplanes, three O-2 airplanes, and two helicopters indiscriminately strafed and bombed the civilian population. They inflicted approximately 15 deaths, according to reports from our forces. The 15 civilian deaths include children, women, and elderly from the town of Masahuat.

The report was signed by Commanders Misael Gallardo, Chano Guevara, and (Antonio Perez), from the Feliciano Ama Western Front.

FMLN Attacks Train

PA240239 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Radio Venceremos has received a report from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front:

On 23 February, at 1500, FMLN militia squads spotted an enemy convoy traveling by train near Aguilares. Members of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front inflicted 11 casualties on the dictatorship's forces. Companeros milita leaders Juan and Aquiles reported this military action.

VENCEREMOS CITES U.S. OPPOSITION TO INVASION

PA231500 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The American people's opposition to Reagan's policy in Central America has cost the U.S. Administration. Reagan has been unable to get all the millions he wants to send more planes and bombs to El Salvador.

Among other popular victories, the blow dealt to the U.S. plans when two helicopters were downed in northern San Miguel Department has forced Secretary of State George Shultz to discuss clearly the Salvadoran dictatorship's situation. According to Shultz, the Salvadoran Army urgently needs U.S. aid because, should it be suspended, it would lose the war. Shultz spoke of the onset of what he described as a military calamity for the Salvadoran regime if Yankee aid is not increased. The situation is clear for the Americans: The puppet Salvadoran Army is supported only by the millions that provide abundant U.S. weapons and advisers. The Americans understand clearly that the time is nearing when the FMLN's advance, the revolutionary advance, will definitely break this artificially supported puppet army.

The Salvadoran dictatorship's inevitable defeat has led Shultz to say that they are not planning to intervene, but that if the American people demanded it, a direct military intervention might be staged in our homeland.

Allow us, Mr Shultz, to doubt this assertion. We doubt that the American people, traumatized by the Vietnam experience and faced with Reagan's current disaster in Lebanon, would endorse, much less request, a military intervention in El Salvador. The problem that Reagan is facing in Congress in obtaining authorization for military aid to the Salvadoran dictatorship is a clear indication of our assertion. However, Reagan's most difficult task would be to get the U.S. people to endorse an intervention. His most difficult task would be bringing Yankee troops to El Salvador and getting them out alive. His difficult task would be to bring his helicopters to our homeland and get them back out as something other than scrap iron. Reagan's difficult task would be to defeat the Salvadoran people, who are determined to defend their homeland with implacable aggressiveness and heroism. This is Reagan's true problem.

GUATEMALA

LEADER OF OUTLAWED LABOR PARTY REPORTEDLY KILLED

PA231750 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Here is a late report. The alleged commander of the outlawed Guatemalan Labor Party was murdered tonight in Guatemala City. An anonymous caller telephoned several media and reported that the body of Commander (Urfi) was near (Verbili) Square in this capital's Zone 13. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1508 GMT on 22 February identified the dead man as Romeo Antonio Sandoval Lopez.]

Reporters for "Here's the World" [name of newscast] went there, and the lifeless body of a man was indeed (?against a curb). There was a piece of paper near the body bearing the legend in red ink: "Executed for treason." The identity of the victim is unknown. Municipal firemen took the body to the morgue of La Verbena Cemetary.

PEASANTS KIDNAPPED; ORPA HIDEOUT RAIDED

PA232213 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Government forces today admitted that they have no clues to the whereabouts of 18 peasants who were kidnapped last Monday in three villages of the El Tumbador municipality in San Marcos Department. The victims include civilian self-defense patrol members who support the Army in its struggle against guerrillas. A peasant from the kidnapped group, Mario Antonio Velasquez Hernandez, was found dead by the authorities.

In addition, the police this afternoon discovered a guerrilla hideout belonging to the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA, which was located at the end of 17th Street and 25th Avenue in Zone 6 in the San Antonio neighborhood.

It was reported that more than 15 Soviet-made grenades, as well as rounds of .30-cal, .45-cal, 9mm ammunition, were found in the hideout, seized by the police, and taken to the police depot. The sole occupant of the house was Maria Fidelina Lopez, who said that she did not know whether her spouse owned this war materiel. She was detained by the authorities, as were her seven children, who ranged in age from 6 months to 13 years, and who were placed in a foster home. Authorities are looking for her husband.

HONDURAS

RODISTA MOVEMENT EMPHASIZES IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

PA222030 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Feb 84 p 5

[Communique issued by the Central Board of the Rodista Liberal Movement in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on 16 February]

[Text] The Central Board [Directorio Central] of the Rodista Liberal Movement reports the following to its leaders and activists:

1. This year's activities will focus on obtaining, with enthusiasm and devotion, the identity papers required by citizens to affirm their status as Hondurans and to guarantee their effective participation in the November 1985 elections. All available funds must be devoted to this goal.

2. All previously scheduled rallies are suspended as of this date and members are instructed not to organize further rallies. Rallies may be held in the future only according to a schedule to be drafted by the Central Board of the Rodista Liberal Movement. This order applies to all members regardless of their current personal status.

3. In accordance with the by-laws of the Rodista Liberal Movement, members who fail to comply with this order must make amends and abide by the movement's rules of conduct.

4. All members must devote their time, resources, and efforts to [obtaining] identity documents for our members.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA REACTS TO SHULTZ' CANADA STATEMENT

PA232151 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2018 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Telephone interview with Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, by an unidentified reporter -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Good afternoon Commander. Regarding the statement made by Mr George Shultz to Radio Canada asking that the elections in Nicaragua be supervised by the international community, deploring that 16-year-old Nicaraguans will be allowed to vote, and saying that the decision to hold elections in Nicaragua does not take into account [entendia] that the United States continues to oppose what they call the leftist regime of Nicaragua, what is the opinion of the coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction about this?

[Ortega] Good afternoon. I learned of the statement by Mr Shultz this morning, and frankly he has confirmed the consistent policy of the United States regarding the situation in Nicaragua. Their consistent policy is to try to hinder all the efforts by Nicaragua on behalf of democracy in the country. It must also be understood that we are making efforts in favor of democracy not only in Nicaragua but also at the Central American level. Mr Shultz referred to the fact that the elections should be supervised, and I think that the international community should take serious note of this, because in Nicaragua the only supervised elections have been the ones that were held in the country when it was militarily occupied by the United States. Therefore, we might correctly conclude that the type of elections that Mr Shultz imagines should be held in Nicaragua are elections to be held with U.S. troops disembarked in Nicaragua. Therefore, we must not view this as a threat only against Nicaragua. This also corresponds to their other statement, that they are not varying their policy regarding the leftist regime, as Mr Shultz calls the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua.

We also see their hatred for Nicaraguans when Shultz says he deplores the fact that we are supporting the right of 16-year-old Nicaraguans to vote. Therefore, we can say that the statement by Mr Shultz conceals a threat and clearly confirms the line of the U.S. policy of continued aggression, as we have stated previously, and that U.S. policy in 1984 will not change. We said it on 21 February, and Mr Shultz is confirming it today.

[Reporter] Commander, what should be the attitude of the Nicaraguan people in view of this new aggressive attitude on the part of the U.S. Administration?

[Ortega] Well, what this shows us is that we must redouble our efforts, strengthening the unity of the nation to defend our national sovereignty, defending ourselves from the aggression, and making all the efforts we can in the productive and social sectors, which are part of the overall defense of the Sandinist people's revolution.

ORTEGA CRITICIZES KISSINGER REPORT, U.S. POLICY

PA212359 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p C-1

["Forum" column: Interview with Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, by Alfredo Pena; date and place not given]

[Text] Question: Five years ago, in the second half of 1979, we talked to [former Venezuelan President] Carlos Andres Perez about the Nicaraguan revolution. At the time, he believed that you would conduct an unprecedented process that would be quite different from Marxist-Leninist communism and the traditional democracy known to us on the continent. Today, however, everything indicates that the process is becoming radicalized and that the revolution is gradually approaching the Cuban model.

Answer: I believe that there is a lot of exaggeration with respect to the Nicaraguan process becoming like the Cuban model. The reality is quite different. The economic situation -- always important in political changes -- still decisively influences the nation's production. There is no tendency toward nationalization; on the contrary, the private sector is being offered incentives in all production activities. But circumstances -- mainly the attitude of the U.S. Government -- have forced us to adopt certain political restrictions.

Question: How would you define the existing political system in Nicaragua?

Answer: We are undergoing a democratic process, very much a process of the people, which seeks to advance with the support of all the social, political, and economic sectors to bring true social justice to the majority.

Question: You have opposed the Kissinger report, yet we believe that it contains some points that are quite positive and interesting. One part states: "Economic development cannot be separated from political and social reform. The objectives must be the parallel development of pluralistic societies and strong economies with a much more equitable distribution of wealth."

Answer: The Kissinger report must be looked at globally. It contains principles so obvious that they can no longer be denied by U.S. policy makers. This is the only new aspect in that report. It completely ignores the destabilizing work being carried out by Washington through covert activities.

Question: The Kissinger report contains other interesting things. One paragraph states: "Local reforms, including local revolutions, do not constitute a menace to the United States; but the interference of foreign powers that exploit local aspirations for their own political and strategic advances is a serious menace." In other words, according to the Kissinger report, they are not concerned about local revolutions, but they are very concerned about the Soviet and Cuban presence.

Answer: That is the demagogic position of the Kissinger report. When they speak of "local revolutions" they do not mean revolutions such as the one in Nicaragua, which was made with the support of Latin American peoples. To them "revolution" means the training of mercenaries, of Somozist counterrevolutionaries, to carry out terrorist acts against the Nicaraguan people. In fact, the U.S. Government considers their invasions of Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua as "revolutions."

Question: The Kissinger report admits that the origin of the local insurgency in Central America is closely related to the economic and social situation of the region.

Answer: If that report did not take into account such elements it would have no credibility at all. That is why some people are confused, although some sectors in the United States have opposed the contents of the report.

Question: According to international dispatches, Colombian President Belisario Betancur recently said that the Central American situation was very difficult because some groups had sought U.S. aid or protection while others had preferred Soviet aid and protection; that is, the superpowers are present there in their duel for world supremacy.

Answer: I believe things should be judged by the facts. We have proposed to the United States the demilitarization of Central America: the withdrawal of military advisers and the freezing of arms supplies. This also means the dismantling of foreign military bases and the end of intimidating military maneuvers in the region. How did Washington respond? By increasing its military escalation in Central America.

Question: Washington has said that you are not sincere in the demilitarization issue. Documents found in Grenada, released by the State Department, revealed the existence of a Cuban-Soviet strategic plan for the region. The White House claims that you are involved in all that.

Answer: The Reagan administration is engaged in a witch hunt to justify its aggressive and interventionist actions. The story about the "documents found in Grenada" is part of the anticommunist psychosis of U.S. officials. What is public knowledge, however, are the White House documents approving multimillion-dollar funds to attack other countries.

Question: The Kissinger report speaks of $8 billion for the development of the Central American region.

Answer: That is a demagogic and election-minded proposal. We do not believe that it will materialize. Neither do we believe that any of the countries of the region are counting on it.

Question: How can great social reforms be implemented while at the same time guaranteeing freedom and ideological and party pluralism?

Answer: The United States is a very important factor. It is very important throughout the world, particularly in Latin America. The stand it adopts in the face of social change can, in a way, define the characteristics of a process. The Kissinger report seeks to blame Soviet expansionism for today's crisis in the Central American and Caribbean countries and among their peoples. What Soviet expansionism was there in the last century, in 1856, when Nicaragua was invaded? What Soviet expansionism was there in 1909 or in 1912, when they [the United States] invaded us again? Or in 1926 when once again they invaded Nicaragua? The Soviet Union was in existence by this last date, but they spoke of Mexican expansionism. Mexico was GUILTY [word in uppercase published in boldface] then. History shows beyond any doubt that the United States has fostered, encouraged, and endorsed all the tyrannical governments that have oppressed Central America. Now they are reaping the fruits of that bad policy. The Nicaraguan revolution, the Salvadoran people's struggle, and, in general, our people's insurgencies are the result of Washington's constant conduct in the region.

Instead of continuing this policy, they should endorse change and social reform in Central America. The United States insists on radicalizing our revolutions. In our case, it has continuously provoked us, but we have not fallen into the trap, and we have managed to preserve the pluralist nature of our process of revolutionary change.

Question: A delegation of people from your country's private media came here about 2 years ago. They complained, especially the radio station owners, that the Sandinist government harassed them and often suspended their programs. We have also talked to Chamorro, the director of LA PRENSA, and he complains a great deal because his paper has been closed on several occasions.

Answer: The only radio stations confiscated in Nicaragua were the ones owned by Somoza. Some were in the dictators' own name and others in the names of figureheads. It is highly probable that those people came here to express their disagreement. As for LA PRENSA, one must take into consideration the fact that the Chamorro family, which owns it, has divided. Some have remained loyal to the revolution while others have joined the opposition.

Question: What is the current situation of the communications media in your country?

Answer: There is broad freedom of the press.

Question: Then why are there closings and temporary suspensions?

Answer: There are restrictions. All information dealing with the country's defense and economy is regulated.

The Elections

Question: There is concern in the West about the integrity of the electoral process that you have announced for 1985. Above all, there is concern about the existence of equal guarantees for all participants. In other words, both government and opposition should enjoy the same rights and have the same opportunity to publicize their messages. We believe that the presence of a vigorous and strong opposition, one that is an authentic alternative to power, is very suitable for democracy.

Answer: I agree that criticism is very necessary, and in this regard the revolution encourages it. But criticism must strengthen revolutionary changes, not seek a return to the past. The opposition is freely and actively participating in every aspect of the electoral process.

Question: What is the current situation of social democracy and Christian democracy in Nicaragua?

Answer: Political forces in Nicaragua range from conservatives, radicals, social Christians, and social democrats to the communists.

Question: Which communist party?

Answer: A communist party that criticizes the revolution, because it claims it has turned itself over to the bourgeoisie.

Question: What if Pastora decided to participate in the elections?

Answer: The amnesty decree is very clear in this regard: Those counterrevolutionary leaders who have received aid from foreign powers to attack Nicaragua cannot participate. Mr Pastora has received aid from the CIA. He himself has publicly admitted this. A few months ago he complained that the CIA was sending more rifles to the Somozist guardsmen than to his movement.

Question: So Pastora cannot participate?

Answer: Definitely not.

Question: Doesn't that contradict the idea of a national reconciliation?

Answer: Pastora cannot participate because the law would not permit it. Besides, he does not want to participate.

Question: Democracy, however, must open the paths to participation. In Europe, specifically in Italy, the forces of democracy and socialism wiped out the fascist tyranny with weapons in hand, yet we see that the fascists have their political parties. Here in Venezuela, former guerrilla leaders who violently fought the system are today deputies and senators in Congress.

Answer: That may be Venezuela's experience, but we cannot automatically adopt such a system.

Question: Democracy means justice, tolerance, and forgiveness. National reconciliation and domestic peace often make political concessions necessary....

Answer: In Nicaragua, there is a war that has been created by the United States and that is waged through people like Pastora and the Somozist guardsmen. The Nicaraguan revolution cannot accept, much less legitimize, foreign aggression. Moreover, were we to be so careless as to say that Pastora and the leaders of the Somozist Guard can participate here, the Nicaraguan people would eliminate them.

Question: One would have to see what the people would really do; we cannot judge beforehand. I have already told you that in Italy, the political forces, including the Communist Party, defeated fascism and then actually allowed a fascist party to be organized and to participate in the elections.

Answer: In Nicaragua, the fascists, using an assumed name, also participate and form parties.

Question: If they are participating, why can't a man who waged the revolution with you participate?

Answer: Because he separated from the revolution and now, armed by the CIA -- as he himself has admitted -- he is waging war on Nicaragua.

Where Is Nicaragua Headed?

Question: In this hemisphere we have tried out all the political and social systems and yet we remain underdeveloped. Will the Nicaraguan revolution escape all that has already been tested and tread that unknown path, which some thought that they saw in the days of Somoza's downfall?

Answer: That will depend on the Nicaraguan people and on the stand adopted by Latin America.

Question: But you would have to say clearly where that revolution is headed...

Answer: We aim for a regime that allows stability and the well-being of the population in all areas. We will not imitate any model; we are building our own.

Question: What would the economic and political structure of that model be?

Answer: It is a profound revolution waged on behalf of the workers. We will retain the private economy, and we will allow all sectors to participate.

Question: Were you to hold an election and lose it, would you turn power over to the opposition?

Answer: Of course. If the people want a conservative government, they shall have a conservative government.

Question: How could that conservative government remain in power with an army and police force ideologically following the radical left?

Answer: All armies are politicized. In any event, the Armed Forces and the state security bodies would guarantee the country's institutionality.

Question: The Constitution here says that the Armed Forces are not involved in the decisionmaking process, but are obedient to civilian power. What does your country's constitution say?

Answer: We have not yet drafted it, but we will. The Armed Forces are currently subordinate to civilian power.

Question: To the junta's power...

Answer: Yes, that is the system currently in operation. We view democracy as something that goes far beyond periodic voting.

Question: Our country's political leaders have said that democracy must advance in the economic and social sectors. This does not mean, however, that we underestimate the political accomplishment that freedom to express an opinion and to criticize, to elect and to be elected represent...

Answer: Freedom and justice must be combined. That is the most important thing.

Question: Don't you think that it is much more difficult to attain justice where expressing an opinion constitutes a severely punished crime?

Answer: Our struggle seeks to establish a society that has both freedom and justice.

Question: Does that approach necessarily mean a confrontation with the United States?

Answer: We don't think so. We have never wanted that. As I told you before, they are the ones who have always attacked and invaded us. We, on the other hand, want to reach an agreement with the United States.

Question: Is Washington very concerned about your military agreements with Cuba and the Soviet Union?

Answer: The United States was the first country from which we requested aid. They offered us canteens, belts, and some military clothing. We are obliged to guarantee Nicaragua's sovereignty and defense. We have found military cooperation in countries with a different ideology.

ORTEGA DISCUSSES ELECTIONS AT PRESS CONFERENCE

PA230151 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Feb 84

[News conference held by Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua -- live]

[Text] [Gudino] Arturo Gudino, from AFP. Commander, yesterday the Democratic Coordinating Board expressed its disappointment with the election announcement and said that it expects a reply to a document it drafted in December. What can you tell us about that?

[Ortega] I believe that the Coordinating Board wants [words indistinct] to understand that we are fulfilling the procedures that will characterize this electoral process. A series of regulations will be issued, and the Coordinating Board will have the chance to offer its opinion on them to the appropriate organization. The Council of State has always given political parties the opportunity to air their views. Everyone has a chance to express his opinion.

[Vives] Commander Ortega, Luis Vives [words indistinct]. Can you tell us what role the mass organizations will play during the elections? What political and legal role will they play? What role will the Sandinist organizations play during the Nicaraguan elections?

[Ortega] Well, we had a revolution, and this revolution gave the working class the opportunity to organize. The workers, peasants, engineers, and intellectuals have all organized, and for the first time in Nicaraguan history they will have the opportunity to play an active role in the electoral process.

[Unidentified reporter] It is said that you are the FSLN's presidential candidate, and that lately you have taken on a national and international image. What procedures were followed to choose the FSLN's candidate?

[Ortega] First of all, I would like to tell you that we have distributed our work. We are each fulfilling our tasks in the assigned areas. Our efforts are aimed at giving continuity to the revolutionary process. When we presented this electoral proposal to the people, we presented them with the FSLN's program. The most important thing was to present the FSLN's program to the people -- the names of the FSLN's candidates will be announced at the appropriate time.

[Loffler] My name is Sonia Loffler, and I am an independent reporter. At this moment I am representing [name indistinct] of Atlanta, Georgia. I would like to ask you about yesterday's announcement regarding the possibility that 16-year-olds will be allowed to vote. The opposition has said this is a way for the FSLN to guarantee a victory in the elections because they know that you have many, if not all of them, on your side. I would like you to respond to this.

[Ortega] I would have to say that we believe that the young people have won this right. This is nothing new in Nicaragua. As I said yesterday, back in 1893 during the liberal revolution here in Nicaragua, all 16-year-olds could vote as long as they knew how to read and write. Therefore, this is nothing new. However, back then other requirements were imposed on the right to vote. For example, the conservative and oligarchic sectors -- prior to the revolution of 1893 -- believed that only those who owned property had the right to vote. They established a minimum, and if you could not meet this requirement, you did not have the right to vote. We could say that those who oppose the voting rights of the young people share these ideas of the past.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander, I have two questions: Why was 4 November chosen as election day? During your speech you mentioned that there will be internal and external campaigns against the measures adopted by the government. Can you be more specific and expand?

[Ortega] The date 4 November has a very special meaning for us. It was the day on which four Sandinist combatants died in a Managua neighborhood back in 1967. We always try to schedule our political events to coincide with a day in the history of the struggle of the Nicaraguan people. The most meaningful things that the people of Nicaragua have are their heroes and martyrs (?who died fighting).

Regarding the smear campaign, this is a systematic campaign launched against the Nicaraguan revolution. We are sure that they want to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. The United States continues to promote the campaigns that they have launched against Nicaragua. As part of this smear campaign, they are promoting polls. The United States is inventing polls, trying to give the impression that the FSLN has the support of only a very few people in Nicaragua. They are doing all this so that when the FSLN wins the elections, they can say that the process was a fraud. They are setting the scene.

They are also pressuring the country's political groups not to participate in the elections. The U.S. objective is to prevent and discredit the electoral process. They are doing this with slander campaigns. They are having their news agencies report that the people of Nicaragua do not support the government, and they are also pressuring the political parties in Nicaragua to isolate themselves from the electoral process. How do they do this? By making absurd statements and demanding equally absurd conditions. They are ignoring the fact that the revolution is a continuing process.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander, the Democratic Coordinating Board agrees with the United States that the amnesty should include everyone, and they have underscored the word everyone. I would like to know the Nicaraguan Government's stand regarding this suggestion and the stance that it will take toward the counterrevolutionary leaders, such as Pastora, Calero Portocarrero, Fagoth Robelo, and so forth.

The Coordinating Board has also requested that the state of emergency be abolished. Why is the state of emergency still being enforced? Is there religious persecution [words indistinct] because today the Coordinating Board said that this persecution has increased and that there is no freedom of worship in Nicaragua.

[Ortega] Regarding the statements of the Coordinating Board, I would like to say that the revolutionary government's position is very clear. Regarding the amnesty, we have extended the deadline. The new deadline is now in May.

This measure is intended to benefit the rank and file, those people who found themselves involved with the counterrevolutionaries because of cultural backwardness, political backwardness, or because of the terrorism of the counterrevolutionary forces, the organized former guardsmen.

Regarding the counterrevolutionary leaders, it is very clear that they will not benefit from this amnesty because they are accepting aid from a foreign power -- in this case the United States.

We must add that we see no reason for them to demand freedom of worship. There is no religious persecution here. You can visit the various churches in the country and you will be able to see that there is no religious persecution on the part of the revolutionary government or the FSLN.

However, there is another kind of religious persecution, and it is promoted by those church authorities who are against the priests and religious people who speak up in favor of a transformation process in Nicaragua. These people are repressed, persecuted, and ousted from Nicaragua. However, this is an internal problem of the Nicaraguan Catholic Church and we don't get involved because it is their problem.

[Unidentified reporter] What about the factors that brought about the state of emergency?

[Ortega] The factors that brought about the state of emergency are still present, and at this time the state of emergency cannot be lifted.

[Bonilla] Commander, Osvaldo Bonilla of UPI. Yesterday the opposition parties said that by moving the elections up to 4 November, the FSLN has the advantage. They said there is little time left for the other parties to organize because the state of emergency still exists; press censorship -- one of the measures imposed by the state of emergency -- remains; and the FSLN has all the necessary means to win, such as the media, while the opposition has no such access. They also complained about the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committee] and described it as a repressive organization.

[Ortega] It is not true that they have no access to the media. All you have to do is pick up LA PRENSA and read it to realize that they do have access to the media. They are carrying out a permanent campaign that is published by LA PRENSA and broadcast by some radio stations that support these parties. Today the situation has changed. It is not like the Somoza times, when they had all the advantages because they owned the communications media and denied media access to the workers. Today this has changed. They must understand that the Nicaraguan revolution was made to provide for the organization of the workers and their access to the communications media.

Their idea of a revolution was very different. They did not want Somoza here, but they wanted to keep things as they had been in the past, when they completely excluded the workers from the communications media. They still continue to do this. LA PRENSA does not practice freedom of expression. It only allows one sector of this country to voice its opinion. Therefore, I must say that the Coordinating Board's statement is not right or correct. It is distorted and confusing.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander, if these parties are going to participate in the elections, will you grant them access to all the communications media, and not only to LA PRENSA? Will you allow them to use the state's television station, radio stations, and so forth? The opposition has said that without access to the mass media they are at a disadvantage in presenting themselves to the people.

[Ortega] Their access to the communications media has already been established. They will be given facilities.

[Unidentified reporter] When will this become effective?

[Ortega] That depends on the schedule being drafted. For the time being they will have access to some of the media -- radio stations and the newspapers. This is an exception in the case of Nicaragua. In many Latin American countries that describe themselves as very democratic, in many European countries, and in the United States itself, access to the media is not that simple for all political parties.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander, how does Nicaragua evaluate the appointment of the new U.S. special ambassador for Central America, Harry Shlaudemann? What can be expected of this appointment? What are the prospects for matching up the economic proposals presented in the Kissinger report with the political proposals presented by the Contadora Group?

[Ortega] I believe that we have to be clear regarding the United States' attitude toward the Central American problem; it continues to be completely closed. It is closed to dialogue and political negotiations. Its intention is to strengthen positions of force in order to justify increased activity in the Central American region -- against Nicaragua and against El Salvador.

The fact that the United States has appointed another special ambassador to Central America to replace Mr Stone is not viewed by us as a step that will strengthen the process of negotiations. We view it as another bit of U.S. propaganda made to give the impression that it wants to negotiate and find a political resolution in Central America. However, the United States is not serious about adopting this responsibility. I don't believe that the United States is really interested in finding a political solution to the problems. The Kissinger report and its economic suggestions are also part of this propaganda activity that is essentially directed to the U.S. people to try and get their consensus on the aggressive policy in Central America, and to involve the U.S. public opinion. The economic suggestions are intended to strengthen the line of action and aggression in the Central American region. Therefore, it is impossible that they could be complementary to the efforts of the Contadora Group.

[Jones] Jill Jones, THE TIMES of London: I have two questions. How much will these elections cost? As you plan these elections, do you feel that the threat of intervention by the United States has decreased?

[Ortega] The amount of money to be allotted to the elections has been discussed at the State Council. They have discussed the amounts that will be allotted to the participating political parties, and they have mentioned figures of between 5 and 6 million cordobas. This is to guarantee that the parties will have the necessary funds to carry out their work. We will have to multiply this amount by the number of parties that will participate in the elections.

However, this is not the only area that will cost money. You have to remember that some manpower will be diverted to be used in other areas. Instead of concentrating this manpower on production and defense, we will have to divert it to electoral activities. This cost has yet to be calculated. This also shows the extraordinary effort being made by Nicaragua in this electoral process.

Regarding the danger of a direct intervention by the United States, we feel that the danger is present. It is a potential danger, and the U.S. rulers are just waiting and looking for the right moment to launch themselves against Nicaragua.

There is also the danger of U.S. intervention and aggression against Nicaragua developing from the activities planned in Honduras and carried out with the support of the counter-revolutionaries who are being used to give the problem the appearance of an internal struggle.

However, this situation cannot be separated from what is happening in El Salvador. This is a regional problem, and the United States has shown no willingness to negotiate with El Salvador or Nicaragua. Therefore, the only solution is the military confrontation being experienced in El Salvador, where the United States continues to lose the war. If they continue to practice this policy, they are headed for a direct intervention in El Salvador. A direct intervention in El Salvador would mean a direct intervention in Central America. There can be no direct intervention in El Salvador without it being part of a Central American framework.

Apart from their plans for El Salvador they also have complementary plans for a direct intervention in Nicaragua. We therefore believe that the danger of an intervention remains present and will continue as long as the United States does not accept, in a responsible manner, the need for a political resolution to the problem; as long as agreements are not reached with the United States regarding the Salvadoran problem and the relations between the United States and Nicaragua, the danger will continue. As long as the United States continues to increase its military presence in the Central American region, the danger will exist.

[Boyd] Harry Boyd, CBC, Canada. Does the government consider it necessary to continue the state of emergency until November, or are there any plans to abolish it prior to the elections?

[Ortega] The state of emergency was created because of a very specific situation -- the situation that we are currently experiencing. The fact that the state of emergency is being enforced does not mean that as the electoral campaign advances it could not be, let's say, suspended. We are not saying that the state of emergency will be maintained throughout the electoral period; in certain areas the state of emergency could be lifted. However, this has to be discussed and will be done when the time comes.

The important thing is that the state of emergency was created because of a military situation. Thousands of men in Honduras are constantly launching attacks. Airplanes are bombing the country. These aircraft are kept in bases in the Canal area in Panama and operate from Honduran and Salvadoran territory. They are bombing economic targets in Nicaragua, and this forces us to remain in a permanent state of emergency in the military field. This state of emergency in the military field cannot be lifted. However, in the political field -- aspects related to the electoral process -- the state of emergency will have to be lifted.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander Ortega, what repercussions would an increase in counterrevolutionary activity against Nicaragua or a massive direct intervention by the United States in El Salvador have on the electoral process?

[Ortega] A massive intervention by the United States in El Salvador would have consequences for Nicaragua. Don't think that the intervention would be against El Salvador alone. An increase of counterrevolutionary activity and of U.S. aggressive actions would endanger the efforts being made with this political process. We could say that any U.S. escalation -- not just an intervention -- would endanger the electoral process.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you see an East-West struggle in Central America? Would your government accept a peace treaty for Central America born of the Contadora Group?

[Ortega] I'd have to say that what we have here is a very clear struggle. The U.S. has intervened -- and I have said this many times, now I am just reminding you -- in Nicaragua several times. It intervened in Nicaragua when the "East" did not exist. The U.S. intervened in Nicaragua in the past century and again early this century. Therefore, it is not an East-West struggle that we are faced with, but a struggle against the policy of the United States, the U.S. imperialist policy that goes against the desire for independence and self-determination of the peoples of Central America.

Regarding the efforts being made by the Contadora Group, I must say that Nicaragua has been one of the countries -- I would say the primary country -- that within the Contadora framework has taken the biggest steps to strengthen the advance of the Contadora Group's peace efforts. Nicaragua is willing to help because it wants to find solutions to the problems of the Central American region.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We are not interested in advantages or disadvantages. This is simply a group of parties that agree with the pluralist character of this revolutionary process and are a part of this revolutionary process.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander, [words indistinct] I would like to know if the FSLN is planning on changing its status. Currently it is a vanguard party; if it is going to participate in the electoral process, I imagine that it will have to make some changes. How will you go about changing it from a vanguard to a political party?

[Ortega] You must understand that elections are going to be held in a country where there is a revolution. This is not a classic electoral process. The conditions under which these elections are going to be held are very specific, not common in the world and much less common in Latin America. Therefore, you must understand that the FSLN is the vanguard of this revolutionary process, and there is no reason that it must change. There can be no changes in its internal structures or its concept. [passage indistinct]

[Unidentified reporter] Several Latin American countries believe that the Sandinist revolution's popular reality is now sealed by an electoral reality. [passage indistinct] I don't believe in political conditions for a U.S. intervention. [passage indistinct] How do you see the Latin American picture in the framework of this reality of the Nicaraguan revolution?

[Ortega] [Words indistinct] this only strengthens the position of Latin American countries that have assumed the Latin American stance in view of Central America's regional problems. These countries have clearly opposed intervention and have advocated a political solution to the problems we have been facing. From a revolutionary standpoint, by strengthening Nicaragua we are strengthening a democratization process in Latin America and validating the position of Latin American governments who oppose intervention and advocate a political solution to Central America's problems.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] I think that this is a very important factor, which we will have to strengthen even further.

In view of this U.S. policy, we don't think there are elements of this kind that can stop and contain it. Only an action by the U.S. people can contain the U.S. policy. I think the Grenada invasion is the clearest indication of a U.S. policy that is not very concerned about U.S. prestige. The United States hurled itself against a small country, invading it brutally. The news media were denied the opportunity to report on this. The United States then trampled on international opinion and tried to influence U.S. public opinion.

The Americans had said a day before that they were not going to invade Grenada. We are seeing then an administration that acts irresponsibly and does not take into consideration international public opinion. Nor does it take into consideration the fact that it has acted insolently at the United Nations by disregarding, for example, how important international opinion is. We believe, therefore, that a Latin American effort is important and necessary, but it is not strong enough to contain the aggressive U.S. policy.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, [words indistinct] I don't have many details, but I understand that this has to do with that party's internal problems. They have crossed the lines of [words indistinct] and, apparently, the [word indistinct] have not agreed. [Words indistinct] we don't have to even think about making concessions to them, because the concessions asked by this party are the same ones that have been demanded by the United States, namely, (?to dismiss) the revolutionary government and turn over the revolution to the interests that have been [word indistinct], leading this country [word indistinct] during the times of Somoza. This is absolutely impossible. [passage indistinct]

COMMISSION SUMS UP WORK ON DRAFT ELECTORAL LAW

PA232339 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] We will now summarize yesterday's State Council session, which marked the beginning of the debates on the draft bill for the electoral law. The commission working on the bill has submitted a report summarizing their work, which was done in two phases. The first consultation with political parties from 13 to 15 February, and the second was the revision of the articles, which lasted from 16 to 20 February.

The commission agreed to invite all the political parties and groups so that they could express their opinions, except for a new party whose acronym is PPSCA [Authentic Popular Social Christian Party], which the majority of commission members agreed not to invite. Meetings were held with the Communist Party of Nicaragua, the Democratic Conservative Party, the Popular Social Christian Party (PPSC), the Social Democratic Party, the Independent Liberal Party, PLI, and the People's Action Movement. As a result of these meetings, there were comments from the PPSC and the PLI, who disagreed with the commission's report.

The commission introduced 119 modifications of the bill, and several articles were virtually rewritten. Some of these refer to the Supreme Electoral Council's right to regulate the process enabling members of the Armed Forces to vote while on military duty. There were also some modifications in content and form. The law ended with 158 articles, but not the same 158 articles as in the original project.

One of the most important modifications to the law is in the chapter on the elections of supreme authorities.

Chapter eleven, which deals with this subject, has a new clause. Clause 2 states that in order to be elected president or vice president in Nicaragua, one must have been a resident of Nicaragua since 31 January 1984, which is the date when the electoral process began. This means that some opposition members who are currently abroad and who have expressed their desire to return to Nicaragua to participate in the electoral campaign will not be able to run for president, vice president, or for the National Constituent Assembly, according to Clause 2, Article 77 of the draft bill.

The draft bill is also more specific on finances. Article 138 provides that the state will allocate 6 million cordobas to cover the electoral expenses of each party or alliance participating in the elections. From this amount, each party or alliance will be able to draw 1.5 million cordobas for the presidential and vice presidential campaign, and 4.5 million for the National Assembly campaign. The first amount will be available only to parties with presidential and vice presidential candidates. Of the second amount, 1/90th of the total amount will be available to each National Assembly candidate. In both cases the candidates must promise that they will carry out the electoral campaign until the date of the elections. In other words, if a party does not present 90 candidates for the National Constituent Assembly, it will not be able to withdraw the 4.5 million cordobas [words indistinct] in this financing.

In addition, the article also introduces important modifications regarding the general provisions, and regarding the faculties of the Supreme Electoral Council.

TOMAS BORGE ON ELECTIONS, FSLN SUPPORTERS

PA231953 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The FSLN will participate in the 4 November elections with the support of two parties of the Revolutionary Patriotic Front, FPR, Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge has revealed at a press conference. Commander Borge added that the Nicaraguan Socialist Party and the Popular Social Christian Party have expressed their interest in supporting FSLN candidates in the November elections. He said that the elections will have no tangible effect on government policies, because the FSLN's party platform has the people's well-being as its primary objective.

The interior minister announced that the names of the FSLN candidates will be disclosed after the debates of the Sandinist assembly, at the end of May or the beginning of June. We are waiting for the parties of the Ramiro Sacasa Coordinating Board to decide if they will take part in the elections, Borge said. He added that their hesitation might stem from the fear of appearing ridiculous, because they do not have the support necessary to compete with the FSLN.

Rules Out Contra Participation

PM230956 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Feb 84 p 5

["M.N." report: "Mr Tomas Borge Visits Paris To Visit Julio Cortazar's Grave"]

[Excerpts] Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge was due to leave Paris this Friday, 17 February, after a 48-hour private visit and return to Managua where the procedure adopted for the general elections -- which, in principle, are due to be held in 1985 -- will be announced on 21 February.

No official talks had been scheduled in Paris for Mr Tomas Borge, who confirmed during private conversations that elections will be held in Nicaragua in 1985 "and possibly even earlier." The Communist Party and the Sandinist Front will each run in the elections. But the alliances among the various remaining small parties do not seem clearly defined. In any case Mr Borge, like Mr Sergio Ramirez (LE MONDE 15 February) rules out "any participation in the electoral process by political and military leaders of the external opposition, like Mr Pastora, Mr Robelo, or Mr Calero." Soldiers in the counterrevolutionary forces, on the other hand, might be accpeted.

Mr Borge, who categorically denied that Eden Pastora's forces have ever occupied part of Nicaraguan territory close to the border with Costa Rica, admitted that the military situation on the Atlantic coast "remains difficult." And he expressed the view that the "sabotage" of economic and industrial installations by armed "counterrevolutionary" commandos is "grave."

Mr Borge is clearly very bitter, because he thinks that the Managua government has been forced to make too many concessions as a result of U.S. diplomatic and military pressure. "It wants everything," he said. "It is making no concessions in return. It is touch and go whether they are asking us to restore Somoza's national guard to power..."

PPSCA LEADER PLEASED WITH ELECTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

PA232203 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] (Salomon Calvo Arrieta), coordinator of the Authentic Popular Social Christian Party [PPSCA], has described the announcement of the 4 November elections as positive during the debates on the electoral law. (Calvo Arrieta) said that his party is pleased with the junta's announcement because it sets a date for the elections. They had not expected the elections to be set so early. This will oblige the democratic parties to intensify their organizational efforts, the PPSCA leader said. He said that the call for elections proves that the government is following its original program. Another example is the political parties law, (Calvo Arrieta) added. The PPSCA leader said that the state of emergency should be lifted in some areas and retained in combat areas. He also said that he agrees that people under 18 should be allowed to vote, as long as the Civil Code is appropriately amended.

PLC LEADER RESIGNS IN APPARENT ELECTION DISPUTE

PA231842 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The resignation of Julio Centeno Gomez, president of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party, PLC, reported here today, has revealed strong disagreement within the opposition on the electoral process. Centeno, who was the party's president and representative to the State Council, voted in favor of the amendments to the Fundamental Statute that were recently approved by the co-legislative branch to allow the election of a president and vice president in this year's elections. However, the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board favored the election of a constituent assembly that would draft a political constitution and call for presidential elections later.

An isolationist group within the rightist opposition, which favors abstention from the elections, is at odds with another group advocating participation in the electoral process. Political observers believe that the resignation of the PLC's president is a consequence of this struggle.

ARMY INTELLIGENCE CHIEF ON COUNTERREVOLUTION

PA232130 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The counterrevolution is no danger to the Sandinist government at this time. What cannot be dismissed is the possibility of direct intervention in Nicaragua by the U.S. Army, Commander Julio Ramos, chief of military intelligence of the Sandinist People's Army, said yesterday before more than 100 foreign newsmen. Commander Ramos based his statement on the fact that there are grave conflicts among the leaders of the counterrevolution which, he said, render them incapable of toppling the Sandinist government on their own.

Noting the failures of the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force], MISURA [Miskito, Sumu, Rama Unity], and ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] in the past 4 years, Ramos indicated that the United States has already in 1984 begun spending the $24 million that will be used before July to finance the shameless, dirty war that is being waged against Nicaragua in violation of international law.

Views Rebel Strategy

PA231939 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Brigade Commander Julio Ramos said during a military briefing offered to foreign newsmen visiting Nicaragua to mark the 50th anniversary of General Sandino's assassination that counterrevolutionaries are planning to resume Operation Marathon. Commander Ramos said that the objectives of this plan are to establish bases in our northern border area and at the same time reinforce task forces in Nicaragua's countryside.

The chief of our military intelligence said that some 1,400 FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] revolutionaries [as heard] have been detected in the country to date. However, he added, they avoid fighting and return to their camps, located a few kilometers from the Honduran border in a sparsely populated, very mountainous area.

Ramos also said that the FDN has some 7,000 members and is currently the strongest Somozist group, because it receives direct financial aid from the U.S. Administration. This is confirmed by the $19 million that Reagan has allocated for the FDN.

Commenting on the MISURAS [Miskitos, Sumus, and Rama [Unity], Commander Ramos said that this group has some 1,500 members, 300 of whom take part in military operations. Commenting on the traitor Pastora's group, he said that the membership of that group cannot be determined. However, there could be some 3,000 members at most, 300 of whom are taking part in incursions into Nicaragua for propaganda purposes, while avoiding direct combat with the EPS [Sandinist People's Army]. Regarding the counterrevolutionary groups' membership, Commander Julio Ramos said that the contras do not have enough military might to influence the people's revolution.

Commander Julio Ramos tonight said that Honduras is becoming a large U.S. aircraft carrier. He was referring to preparations for a possible military invasion of Nicaragua. While addressing foreign newsmen, Commander Ramos said that intelligence reports show that Honduran officers have said that the invasion of Nicaragua could take place in April.

According to the Pegasus Plan, which the Ronald Reagan administration is trying to carry out in Central America, the invasion would involve the infiltration of Honduran Army ground troops with the support of U.S. naval and air forces. In his analysis, the chief of EPS military intelligence said that this action is not attractive to the Honduran High Command, because Nicaragua can match each Honduran Army battalion with a thousand battalions from our heroic people's militias.

Commander Ramos pointed out that, instead of the Pegasus Plan, Honduran officers are trying to put the progression theory [teoria de arrastre] into practice. This plan involves using counterrevolutionaries first, followed by the Honduran Army, and then by what is left of CONDECA [Central American Defense Council], to pave the way for the Yankee Army.

Of course, in view of the U.S. electoral situation, the Pegasus Plan is considered more convenient because it would preclude a direct intervention and public criticism of the U.S. Administration. Ramos also said that the United States is currently enlarging six landing strips in Honduras to accommodate gigantic C-130 Hercules planes.

VOICE OF SANDINO CARRIES ARDE WAR BULLETINS

Army Rebuffed in Nueva Guinea

PA231755 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 22 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 176 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, "in the mountains of Nicaragua" on 21 February]

[Text] The General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance's Armed Forces, ARDE, reports to the Nicaraguan people and the world's free peoples:

On 18 February, members of the interventionist army failed in their efforts to dislodge the aggressive Fang 2 and Fang 3 units of the General Francisco Alfredo column from positions near (El Letrero), 4 km from Verdun in Nueva Guinea jurisdiction. This column was headed by experienced companeros Rabbitt and Tiquin. The enemy engaged members of our columns three times: at 0840, 1030, and 1220. The actions lasted approximately 15 minutes each. The enemy was unable to make our forces retreat a single inch, but rather met the bravery of our combatants, who repelled them with leveling fire. In view of the impossibility of advancing, the enemy troops chose to withdraw, suffering 31 dead and numerous wounded.

EPS Ambushed in Punta Gorda

PA231800 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 22 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 177 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces "in the mountains of Nicaragua" on 21 February]

[Text] 1. At 0700 on 12 February, patriots of the General Francisco Estrada column, belonging to the Fang 6 unit, headed by Companeros Paco Zero and Oil Lamp, successfully ambushed an EPS [Sandinist People's Army] patrol at San Pablo in the Punta Gorda jurisdiction, inflicting seven dead and three wounded in a military action that lasted 15 minutes. The interventionists withdrew for reinforcements.

2. After 3 days' vigilance this same column, this time headed by Companeros Ramon and Consuelo, fiercely engaged the interventionist army's forces at the same location. After 45 minutes of fighting, the enemy withdrew in the face of our forces' aggressiveness and high combativeness, suffering 18 dead and several wounded. Due to the approaching darkness, our forces let them flee.

Military Posts Attacked in Rivas

PA231845 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 22 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 178 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces "in the mountains of Nicaragua" on 21 February]

[Text] At 2300 on 18 February, three squads of the Francisco Saren unit, which operates in the Rivas isthmus, successfully carried out synchronized attacks under the command of Companeros Adolfo and Cicopico on military posts of the interventionist army at (La Mancuerna) and Cuatro Caminos, 20 km northeast of San Juan del Sur harbor in Rivas Department, using mortar, rifle, and machine gun fire. The engagement lasted 35 minutes. The enemy suffered numerous casualties. The enemy answered our fire with Russian-made 157-mm [as heard] cannon. The enemy's fire was useless, because we suffered no casualties. Positive results were achieved because our companeros, lacking camouflage paint, used the old method of charcoal and lampblack. At the end of the military action, the three squads met at a predetermined location and then left for their bases, where they arrived without incident thanks to their experience in night marching.

Army Attacked at Atlanta Harbor

PA232153 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 22 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 179 released by the General Command of the Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces "in the mountains of Nicaragua" on 21 February]

[Text] The aggressive Gaspar Garcia Laviana column of the Pablo Martinez unit, led by the courageous Companero Jorge, who has been terrorizing the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] in the Punta Gorda region, has reported that it has successfully completed the General Command mission to attack the interventionist army command at Atlanta Harbor, 60 km from Bluefields. The column spent 8 days en route to the site, and then accomplished their mission. The attack was carried out at 0200 on 18 February. The enemy suffered 36 casualties from rifle fire in a clash that lasted 1 hour. Upon completion of their mission, they returned to their place of origin [words indistinct] satisfied that they had done their duty in the struggle for our country's liberation from Cuban-Soviet control. In addition, we also report that prior to arriving at its final destination in Atlanta Harbor, the column was forced to face the enemy in three clashes, from which the column emerged victorious. The first of these clashes occurred at 1300 on 12 February in El Guineo near Punta Gorda. The enemy suffered 37 dead and numerous wounded. During the action, both Gordo and his companeros fought bravely and forced the interventionist army to retreat. The second action occurred at 1000 and 1530 [as heard] on 16 February in San Pedro, 3 km from Piedra Fina at the mouth of the Agua Zarca creek, where our forces fought the enemy for 25 minutes and defeated them. The enemy suffered eight casualties and was forced to retreat.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON CENTRAL TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Castro Heads 3d Session

FL231454 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The morning session of the third working day of the 15th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] was characterized by the commitment of many Cuban provinces to harvest 1 million arrobas of cane both by hand and with combines.

Fidel Castro, our commander in chief and first secretary of the party, presided over the event together with Roberto Veiga, alternate member of the Politburo, and other party and union leaders.

In yesterday's afternoon session, Commander in Chief Fidel presented the flag accrediting the cutting of 3 million arrobas of cane to the 1st of May canecutters' brigade.

The morning session was also characterized by the enthusiastic and proficient participation of the delegates, who made important contributions to the congress.

During the morning session yesterday, a check for 20,041,241 pesos was presented to Fidel as the spontaneous and conscientious 1983 contribution of the Cuban workers to the Territorial Militia Troops.

Vilma Espin, alternate member of the Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women, told the congress that we have reached this great event with the satisfaction of having 1,044,962 female workers representing 38.9 percent of the active Cuban work force.

4th Session Program Outlined

FL231248 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Today, during the fourth session of the 15th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC], the committee on ideological work will begin its discussions and the reports of the seven working committees will be presented to the congress.

During the fourth day of the 15th CTC Congress, the discussion of the main report will continue. Debate on this document will conclude in the afternoon.

Workers, Combatants To Be Honored

FL231358 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Expressing the sentiments of all Cuban workers, the delegates to the 15th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] have unanimously agreed to propose the establishment of Internationalist Day to honor those workers and combatants killed while fulfilling honorable missions in various countries as well as those who have or are carrying out such missions, as a glorious tradition of our people and in accordance with the principles of Marxism-Leninism and Jose Marti.

At the request of the party and government, the congress agreed to entrust the new CTC leadership to be elected, with approving the agreement to award the Order of Lazaro Pena to the combatants who gave their lives in Grenada and to build a monument to the internationalists.

Castro Lauds Moa Workers

FL232037 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Today's session of the 15th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] concluded a few minutes ago. In this session, Derbis Fernandez Perez of Holguin's Pedro Soto Alba Nickel Enterprise read the pledges of Moa workers:

[Begin recording] [Roberto Veiga] We yield the floor to Derbis Fernandez Perez from Moa, Holguin Province.

[Fernandez Perez] Comrades presiding over this meeting, comrade delegates, and guests: Taking into consideration the efforts that the revolution is making in the mining and metallurgic development area in Moa because of its great potential for economic development and in view of our promise to Commander Fidel to build Moa, the workers, aware of their role as forgers of the future and owners of their wealth, have agreed in general assemblies to state, at this most important event of the Cuban working class, that the more than 25,000 workers who are in Moa representing all provinces in the country will conduct a drive, with decisive efforts, from March to October. This drive will complete and boost the main projects that are being built there, which include the completion of the nickel plant in Punta Gorda, the nickelmechanical plant [combinado mecanico de niquel], and 500 houses. The drive will also include laying the foundations for the CEMA 1 Nickel Plant, the new plant; giving new life to Moa; and completing social projects planned for this year.

This hard effort will mean working day and night without rest. A willingness to do this was expressed in 278 meetings with 100 percent attendance. At these assemblies, the workers promised to meet this necessary goal as a greeting to the 36th CEMA Session to be held in our country.

[Veiga] We yield the floor to Comrade Fidel.

[Castro] I wanted to expand a little on the statement made by the representative of Moa workers because the goal they have set out to reach is so great that it seems exaggerated. [applause]

It is not that they were asked to do this. What they have agreed to do calls for a very big effort. We really don't need such a big effort for any project anywhere. The problem is that we have been building the nickel factory for several years. It is a very large project. We have been building it with Soviet cooperation.

At the same time, a high-level CEMA meeting will be held in Havana. We are thinking that as part of the program, we could probably inaugurate the first production line of the Punta Gorda Nickel Plant on that occasion. At the same time, we could lay the foundations for the CEMA 1 plant which, as its name indicates, is a new nickel plant that will be built with the cooperation of all the CEMA countries.

Therefore, on the occasion of this important event to be held here, we asked the comrades to study what we had to do to see if we could have that first production line in October, approximately, and see if we could -- because the bulldozing of the area is already under way -- lay the foundations for the CEMA 1 Plant.

It seems that the comrades began to get busy. It seems that the task is difficult. I myself didn't imagine the great effort involved. A large number of additional workers is needed. They don't have them. Then, this is when the Moa workers' initiative began to appear. I think this is an impressive example of their spirit because if they had consulted me I would have said: Let's think about something else. If I had known, I wouldn't dared have ask them to make such a big effort, honestly. [applause] I simply suggested the possibility of inviting the CEMA chiefs of government who will meet in October here to inaugurate that plant and lay the foundations for the other one. It was an idea and they will make this idea a reality through this effort -- explained by the comrade here -- which is truly an extraordinary effort.

Special attention has been given to Mao workers. We have done everything possible to improve their clothing. They wear special work clothes and shoes. We have improved their food and their transportation considerably.

I was saying: Let's give our best attention to workers and we will see how they are capable of any heroic deed and what has been explained here is an example. They have even agreed to reduce their resting period to 3 days every 25 days. This applies to workers from the province. Those who are from other provinces will get 6 days every 40... 44...how many days did you say?

[Fernandez Perez] Forty.

[Castro] I can assure you that this is a very serious effort and as much as we give to these workers and regardless of the attention we pay to them, they are undoubtedly giving us an admirable response. But this doesn't mean that we will continually ask this type of effort from our workers. I am explaining this particularly for the benefit of the foreign delegations which are present at this congress. We do not believe in asking for exceptional efforts unless it is truly necessary, such as when the blockade or the sugar harvest forces us to make an exceptional effort. We know how much our people can give under special circumstances. [applause]

For this reason, all of us have unlimited confidence in our people because we know what they are capable of and what they would be capable of in the event of a complete blockade or an attack on our country. [applause, crowd shouts slogans]

What I wanted to say is that we, because of principles, are not in the habit of asking our workers to make superhuman efforts. We do try to create an awareness that as an underdeveloped and Third World nation, we must make great efforts to advance, but we are not in the habit of asking for superhuman efforts if there is no need for them. I would say that in this case there is no need for this effort. What we wanted to do is to be able to hold the CEMA meeting with a great symbol: by inaugurating that gigantic nickel plant which will have a production capacity of 30,000 tons and laying the foundations for a second plant. However, the workers, on their own, not pushed by us because, as I said, I truly wouldn't have dared talk about the idea if they had told me about the type of effort involved. But they converted that idea into a purpose, a goal, and a reality, as was said here.

I am completely convinced that they are going to meet that goal. We must not discourage them. If they already held 270 [as heard] meetings and agreed to reach that goal, we must not discourage them. We must encourage and congratulate them. We must express to them our confidence and our everlasting admiration for their attitude. [applause]

BRAVO MEETS WITH SWEDISH IMMIGRATION MINISTER

FL231630 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Flavio Bravo, member of the Central Committee and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has received Anita Gradin, Sweden's immigration minister and vice president of the Federation of Swedish Social Democratic Women, at the assembly offices. The meeting was held in a climate of friendship and mutual understanding. They discussed common views on the struggle for peace and peaceful coexistance and against the arms race.

JUCEPLAN NEGOTIATING ECONOMIC PLAN IN WARSAW

FL231940 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The conversations being held in Warsaw, Poland, on the coordination of Cuban-Polish economic plans for the 5-year period 1986-1990 have been widely reported by the national press. The evening editions of the Polish dailies have reported on these negotiations, which are being carried out by a delegation of the Central Planning Board [JUCEPLAN], headed by JUCEPLAN Vice President Jose Gonzalez, who is participating in a Warsaw consultative meeting of the planning organs of the two countries.

The Cuban visitors met with Vice Chairman Manfred Gorywoda of the Planning Commission of the Council of Ministers of Poland. The representatives of the two governments studied problems of economic development and exchanged views on the basic orientation of Cuban-Polish cooperation during the coming 5-year period, according to reports.

DELEGATION ATTENDS ADVISORY CONFERENCE IN HANOI

FL231946 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The Cuban delegation attending the Advisory Conference of Socialist Parliaments in Hanoi met last night with the chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam, Nguyen Huu Tho. Jorge Lezcano, chief of the Cuban delegation, delivered to the Vietnamese leader an invitation from the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, Flavio Bravo Pardo, to visit Cuba, which was accepted with great satisfaction.

The Cuban delegates present at the conference attended a reception given for the guests and deposited flowers at the tomb of Ho Chi Minh located in Ba Dinh Square, Hanoi. State Council Chairman Truong Chinh also met with the presidents of the socialist delegations.

ROK TEAM INVITED TO PRE-OLYMPIC TOURNAMENT

SK221138 Seoul YONHAP in English 1039 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Seoul, Feb 22 (YONHAP) -- Cuba has formally assured South Korea that it would guarantee the entry of a South Korean national team to participate in a pre-Olympic women's basketball tournament to be held in the communist country.

The Cuban Basketball Association, in a cable to its Korean counterpart, welcomed Korean participation in the pre-Olympic meet scheduled for May 5-16 in Havana, and asked to inform it early of the list of members of the Korean squad, the Korean association said Wednesday.

In the absence of diplomatic relations between Havana and Seoul, the Korean Basketball Association had so far made indirect contacts with the Cubans through the International Amateur Basketball Association (FIBA). However, the Cuban association recently sent the cable directly to the Korean association, a move basketball officials here view as the beginning of a direct dialogue in sports between the two countries.

Since last year, South Korea has requested through FIBA the admission into Cuba of the Korean basketball team to take part in the coming pre-Olympic event. It got the green light in Munich, West Germany, early this month, when Cho Tong-Chae, a senior Korean basketball official, was given a verbal pledge from the chief Cuban delegate that Korean athletes, officials, and reporters, regardless of number, will be allowed to come to Havana. Cho and the Cuban delegate were attending a FIBA board meeting in the German City on Feb 6.

It would mark the first South Korean sport contingent ever to set foot on Cuba, although Cubans and South Koreans have vied on numerous occasions in the sports arena held in third countries.

The Koreans will receive their visas to Cuba at the Cuban Embassy in Tokyo.

Nineteen nations will compete in the May Havana meet in their bid to secure one of the four slots in store for the Los Angeles Olympics Women's Basketball Tournament, in which the United States, the Soviet Union, and four other countries have already qualified. Korea, the fourth-place finisher in last year's World Women's Championship in Brazil, is favored to obtain one of the fourth berths at stake.

VOTER TURNOUT IN NOMINATION PERIOD NOTED

FL231404 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] More than 3 million voters have participated to date in the nomination of candidates for delegates to the local organs of the People's Government. This figure is equivalent to 89.4 percent of the attendance at the 14,500 meetings held throughout Cuba, which represent more than half of the meetings scheduled for this phase of the electoral process that will culminate on 5 March.

REAGAN'S NEWS CONFERENCE ON MIDEAST CITED

FL231545 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1325 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Washington — The United States has not abandoned Lebanon and the Marines' mission is not over with yet, nor is it a failure, U.S. President Ronald Reagan has said.

During his first news conference of this year, Reagan implied that the Marines on U.S. warships off the Lebanese coast may eventually return to land, and stressed that his soldiers are not leaving Lebanon, but are taking more defensible positions.

In addition, he stated that he assumes full responsibility for the Marines' mission, and did not deplore having sent them to try to restore peace despite the international public's strong criticism of his government policy and the indiscriminate bombing and firing by U.S. planes and ships on Lebanese civilians.

Regarding the sending of U.S. warships to the Strait of Hormuz, the U.S. President said that his country will never permit a blockade of the Persian Gulf. The Strait of Hormuz will remain open to navigation, Reagan stated, adding that his country's ships will remain in the northern part of the Indian Ocean on a permanent basis.

FMLN STRENGTH, GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY VIEWED

PA231950 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 22 Feb 84

["Our America's commentary]

[Excerpts] The FMLN again demonstrated its military strength and capacity this weekend when it downed two of the Army's helicopter gunships near the localities of San Gerardo and San Luis de la Reina, in San Miguel Department. These helicopters were part of a column transporting troops to reinforce a counterinsurgent operation that the Army has been staging for over a week in San Miguel Department. So far, the operation has been a failure and,as an Army officer admitted, the troops are wandering about fearfully, not straying too far from their garrisons.

In the last few days more than 50 soldiers have been injured or killed during clashes in large areas of the Departments of Cabanas, Chalatenango, Usulutan, San Miguel, and Morazan.

The Salvadoran dictatorship's inability to control the rebel forces has led to a re-activation of paramilitary groups, which in recent days have killed over 60 civiians whom they accused of collaborating with the guerrillas.

Political observers stress the increasing importance given recently to the paramilitary groups, stressing that this demonstrates the increasing weakness of the regime which, only a few days prior to the announced general elections, is resorting to the death squads in an effort to frighten the population. The [words indistinct] by the Salvadoran revolutionary organizations, which have described them as a fraud that will contribute nothing to the country's pacification.

As Salvadoran revolutionary leader Ruben Zamora has asserted, the elections will be a huge defeat because the people don't support them. The regime, he said, will have to accept the negotiations proposed by the FMLN and the FDR, since the rebels currently control large areas of the national territory and constitute a power which is carrying out governmental activities.

U.S. TO SUPPLY NEW HELICOPTERS TO EL SALVADOR

PA222252 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The United States has announced that it will send another 10 helicopter gunships to El Salvador, and that is is already training new Salvadoran pilots.

Salvadoran guerrilla forces recently shot down two U.S.-made helicopters in northeastern El Salvador, killing all 28 soldiers aboard the two aircraft.

Political observers said the U.S. decision is based on Pentagon strategy, which sees helicopters as vital in the antiguerrilla struggle.

Meanwhile, in eastern El Salvador clashes continue between government forces and guerrilla units after the Army initiated a counterinsurgency operation at the end of last month. Reports indicate that in the last few hours there have been clashes in San Gerardo, San Luis de la Reina, and Ciudad Barrios, all in Morazan Department. In Usulutan and San Miguel Departments, fighting continues between the rebels and some 1,400 soldiers of the Manuel Jose Arce Battalion and the 3d Infantry Brigade.

At the same time, more than 6,000 employees of the Salvadoran Social Security Institute have declared an indefinite strike to demand from the Salvadoran Government wage increases and other benefits.

NICARAGUA ADVANCES ELECTIONS TO 4 NOVEMBER

FL222000 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The year 1984 will be one of new tasks and challenges, but this small country has enough heart to continue fulfilling the plans and to continue to be better Sandinist, Commander Daniel Ortega affirmed before the more than 100,000 persons gathered in Managua to pay homage to Augusto Cesar Sandino on the 50th anniversary of his assassination.

Ortega announced that next November 4th the people of Nicaragua in a direct and secret vote, will elect a president, a vice president, and a 90-member national assembly. The new date advances the original plan which had scheduled the elections for 1985.

The Nicaraguan Junta coordinator also stated that Washington will continue to allocate millions of dollars to fill that Central American nation with pain and stressed that the 73 million spent for that purpose since March 1982 was taken away from the American people's social programs.

Ortega: U.S. To 'Boycott' Elections

PA231418 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Sandinist Commander Daniel Ortega has charged in Managua that the United States is pressuring the Nicaraguan opposition parties into not participating in the elections in November. The coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta said during a news conference that Washington is preparing a propaganda campaign to boycott the elections and brand them as fraudulent. Ortega said that the FSLN will defeat its opponents, and that is why the United States wants to discredit the elections.

Ortega described as preposterous the opposition Democratic Coordinating Board's demands for a national dialogue involving the counterrevolutionary organizations. He stressed that the danger of a U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua is still a possibility, and that the United States is looking for an appropriate opportunity to send in its Marines.

Parties Support FSLN

FL231730 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1205 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Managua -- Commander Tomas Borge, member of the FSLN National Directorate, has reported that the People's Social Christian Party and the Nicaraguan Socialist Party will support the FSLN in the 4 November elections. Borge told foreign newsmen that the Independent Liberal Party, the other member of the Patriotic Front of the Revolution, will participate in the elections alone.

Meanwhile, the announcement of elections in Nicaragua was praised by governments and personalities of the world, with the exception of the United States, which expressed skepticism about it. The Canadian and U.S. media gave prominence to the Managua decision to lower the voting age from 18 to 16 years so as not to ignore the opinion of the youths.

PERUVIAN ARMY CHIEF ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO CHILE

PA221719 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] General (Julian Julia), commander in chief of the Peruvian Army, has said that his country will have to take appropriate measures if it is confirmed that the United States has supplied nuclear weapons to Chile. During an inspection tour of garrisons in southern Peru, the Army chief said that the problem was discussed at a meeting in which President Fernando Belaunde Terry and War Minister General Oscar Bruce [as heard] participated. He emphasized that it is up to U.S. and Chilean authorities to either deny or confirm the press reports in question.

The press recently reported that the United States had supplied Chile with nuclear-tipped Pershing missiles.

CONTINUED WORKERS' STRIKES IN PERU NOTED

F 221545 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Peruvian union leaders from the railroad, energy, and baking industries, who have been on strike for 10 days, have expressed their determination to start a hunger strike. Such a strike is already under way in the fisheries sector. The workers are striking for salary raises, job stability, and other demands. Yesterday, the Peruvian state-owned port enterprise workers agreed to suspend their strike for 5 days in order to negotiate their labor demands with the government.

REPORTS ON VIOLENCE IN PERUVIAN DEPARTMENTS

Shining Path Suspected

PA191912 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The Department of Ayacucho in Peru was left completely without electricity for an extended period, during which shooting was heard. Reports from Huanca said that a large group attacked the community jail. At the same time, shooting ensued between police and presumed members of the Shining Path movement. It was also learned that fierce fighting took place in Huancayo.

Meanwhile, Peruvian police arrested Chilean Hernan Toro Pinedo on suspicion of spying on the Chilean-Peruvian border. The police gave no further details, but Toro was found to possess a large number of photographs he had taken of strategic military bases.

One Dead, Two Missing in Ayacucho

PA220140 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Excerpt] One dead and two missing are the latest statistics to come out of the convulsed situation in Ayacucho. In addition, a report received in Lima indicates that a group of masked men kidnapped eight people in a bakery in Ayacucho on Friday night. In the city of Huanta, also in Ayacucho Department, a farmer was kidnapped and the school principle was arested; the principal was later reported missing. A 72-year-old man was wounded by a marine because he did not obey an order to stop. The body of a worker identified as Pedro Cardenas Villanueva, whose arrest the authorities officially admitted, was found dead.

Finally, local newspapers have attributed the public execution of two men in the village of (Tintihuasemy) in Huancavelica Department to the Shining Path armed organization.

OECS TO MEET, SEES NEED FOR MORE COOPERATION

FL180248 Bridgetown CANA in English 2323 GMT 17 Feb 84

[By Rickey Singh]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Feb 17 (CANA) -- Leaders of the seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) meet here on February 29 for their first regular session since they co-sponsored last October's U.S.-led invasion of member state Grenada to restore law and order following a bloody coup. The meeting is being held within the context of what officials say is the need for greater cooperation against the background of their Grenada initiative.

Current OECS chairperson, Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, said last month, "I believe in 1984 we are going to have much closer bonds in every way. I see a desire, a willingness to work together as an OECS group."

The Castries summit may conclude with the election of the head of Grenada's interim government, Nicholas Brathwaite, as new chairman, since Grenada is next in line for the post under the system of rotation. Montserrat, the only non-independent OECS territory, will take over if St George's declines, officials said.

Dr Vaughan Lewis, director-general of the OECS, which was launched on July 4, 1981, said in a CANA interview, that depending on one's philosophical perception, the military intervention could be viewed either as the "high point" of the OECS or a "disastrous moment". "Military intervention against a sovereign state is a very serious matter...a very grave development," declared the 44-year-old St Lucia-born economist. But, the former director of the University of the West Indies Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) for eight years, said: "all the prevailing factors of October 1983 and the subsequent discoveries and assessments in Grenada itself have served to justify the decision taken by the governments of the OECS."

Dr Lewis said that while the "politics of the decision" may be debateable, "there is nothing illegal about this collective action by the OECS governments." In this position, Dr Lewis, as the chief technocrat of this economic grouping of some 540,000 West Indians, finds ready support from his secretariat colleague, Gus Compton, former executive secretary of the West Indies Associated States (WISA) council of ministers, which the OECS succeeded.

Armed with the 48-page OECS treaty, Compton said that the October 21 decision on Grenada by the OECS heads of government was covered by the provisions of the treaty, a copy of which has been deposited with the Caricom secretariat and one of which will soon be registered with the United Nations with the required "clarification of technical details." Asked whether the decision was a violation of the OECS "unanimity rules" and in particular Article Eight on "defence and security", both Lewis and Compton said it was not necessary for Grenada to be "physically present" at the Barbados meeting, but the OECS secretary-general declined to elaborate.

Events in Grenada, and in particular the need to maintain a foreign military presence there until elections are held later this year, have already been considered by the OECS, the United States, Barbados, and Jamaica, whose representatives met in St George's on January 30 for a special meeting on "security arrangements for Grenada." This special meeting on Grenada was followed by a confab of representatives of the governments of Barbados and the OECS with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, in Barbados on February 8 at which the assistance of the U.S. was sought for the creation of a joint regional security system (RSS). The RSS is an evolving military arrangement that owes its origin to a "memorandum of understanding" originally signed in Dominica in October 1982 by Barbados, St Lucia, Dominica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Antigua and Barbuda, endorsed by the newly independent state of St Kitts-Nevis at this month's RSS meeting in Barbados.

Lewis does not see any conflict of interest in the launching of a regional security system that may have to be heavily dependent on United States assistance, at least initially, and the demands for the Caribbean to be declared a zone of peace, a concept strongly supported by the OECS at their second summit held here in November 1982. "It is not feasible", he argued during our interview, "for these small island states to have individual armies. It is precisely for this reason that there's a need for a collective regional security system." Lewis said that as a consequence of this commitment to have a regional defence mechanism, the governments concerned would have to seriously consider "the arrangement of a political formula for controlling of this security system in order to guarantee its independence from any outside forces."

However, discussions on security matters will take a seat at the forthcoming OECS summit in view of deliberations already held earlier in Grenada and Barbados over recent weeks, explained Dr Lewis.

The fourth OECS summit here will, instead, concentrate on economic and functional cooperation issues, with emphasis on maritime boundries and fishing rights within the context of the 200-mile economic zone, location of industries sharing of overseas representations, review of the structure of the Eastern Caribbean Tourism Association (ECTA), review of sporting and cultural activities, and consideration of proposals for next month's meeting in Dominica of OECS education ministers of the UNESCO-funded multi-lateral project on technical and vocational education.

The summit, however, is expected to approve requested associate membership for the British dependencies of Anguilla, which seceded from St Kitts-Nevis in 1967, and the British Virgin Islands. Under the terms of the OECS treaty both can be granted full membership but cannot participate in matters relating to foreign affairs and defence. Lewis said that it was not envisaged that either associate or full membership may be accorded to any new applicant within the near future. And, he stressed, that at all times the OECS countries, as members of the wider Caribbean Community (Caricom) endeavour to ensure that "there is harmony in the pursuit of matters relating to the strengthening of the integration process."

Pushes for 'Special Considerations'

FL171927 Bridgetown CANA in English 1825 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Feb 17 (CANA) -- Member countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) will be pushing for "special considerations" during the next conference of the Caribbean Common Market (Caricom) Council of Ministers, St Lucia's Minister of Trade George Mallet said. The Council decided at its meeting last month to hold a special session within three months in Trinidad and Tobago to deal with a constriction in intra-regional trade. The meeting, official sources said, is now shifted to Guyana from April 15-16. Mallet said the OECS countries were particularly hardhit by restrictions placed on their exports into Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Guyana. "Right now," declared Mallet, "the doors are virtually shut on our exports into these countries. Guyana has no money and seems to be in a special case. But we are all anxious to get into the markets of Trinidad and Tobago," the most important for the (OECS), and Jamaica.

"Cutbacks on imports by our manufacturers," he added, "are aggravating our unemployment and social problems. We feel that Trinidad and Tobago can afford to absorb our comparatively small volume of imports within the framework of its significant global trade policy." Trinidad and Tobago imposed import licensing last October in a move aimed at curbing foreign currency outflows. Mallet said that he could "understand and even sympathise with the views of some Trinidadian businessmen, especially in the garment industry, that our exports of manufactured garments into their country place them at an unfair advantage given our comparatively low production costs based largely on wages variation." He, however, feels that the small island states of Caricom should be given "special consideration." St Lucia and other OECS countries plan on advancing this argument at the next Council meeting.

Intra-Caricom trade currently average around nine percent of the Community's total volume of global trade, Mallet said, "even this in real terms is very important to us. All of the member countries have benefitted from Caricom." Mallet said the benefits of Caricom must not only be viewed in terms of trade, but in the areas of functional co-operation, such as education, air and sea transport and meteorology, economic, and political issues.

Mallet, commenting on suggestions for a reconstituted Caricom treaty, said he is against any fundamental change in its provisions. He said that in spite of "all its shortcomings, Caricom is the best thing we have got, and we have a duty to resolve our differences and make this experiment in regional economic co-operation work for the benefit of the peoples of the Caribbean."

Mallet feels that "there may be some justification for thinking that the unanimity rules are too wide and constitute a veto on some very crucial issues." But he advised that the Caricom governments "concentrate on how we should amend the Chaguaramas Treaty, if necessary, to restrict the rules relating to a consensus. "We must not," he added, "seek to use our differences on this unanimity issue in order to fundamentally change the character of the Caribbean Community."

BARBADOS

SIR HUGH SPRINGER NAMED GOVERNOR GENERAL

FL180250 Bridgetown CANA in English 2238 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 17 (CANA) -- Sir Hugh Springer, a distinguished Barbadian educator, was today named the island's third native governor-general. Sir Hugh, 70, succeeds Sir Deighton Ward, who died suddenly on January 9. He is the oldest man to be appointed to the largely ceremonial post of head of state and will serve as Queen Elizabeth's representative in Barbados.

The appointment takes effect from next Friday, when Sir Hugh will be sworn in, an official statement said.

Sir Hugh was born on June 22, 1913. He was educated locally and at Oxford University. He was a member of the legislature from 1940-47 and a founder-member of the Barbados Workers Union, the island's largest labour union.

Sir Hugh served for 16 years as registrar of the University College of the West Indies and was secretary-general of the Association of Commonwealth Universities from 1970 until 1980.

He was knighted by the Queen in 1971.

DLP PRESIDENT CALLS FOR MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

FL201353 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 19 (CANA) -- President of the opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP), Branford Taitt, has called for the resignation of Health Minister O'Brien Trotman in the midst of a row between the ministry and trade unionists over the lay-off of 200 employees.

Taitt, a former DLP trade minister, said the dismissal of Trotman was "the least government could do" after the workers were sent home without being paid. Several public health inspectors and other workers were laid off Friday following the failure of the ministry to secure funds for paying them.

Taitt said there were other matters involving the health minister which had also led to the call for the minister's resignation. He said Trotman had recently misled Barbadians into believing that no more cadavers would be allowed into the country for dissection by American medical students until legislation governing their use had been passed.

Taitt also referred to a directive from the Ministry of Health against civil servants divulging information on the American Medical School to the press. Taitt said the directive was a threat to the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under the Barbados' Constitution.

The DLP president said: "All of this came on top of the unacceptable decision to establish an offshore medical school in Barbados, in the face of professional resistance inside and outside of the ministry, followed by inept and erroneous remarks by the minister, which virtually impugn the sovereignty of Barbadians to run their own affairs."

Taitt also referred to a statement by members of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners (BAMP), in which Trotman was accused of prematurely talking to the press about negotiations the two parties were still having. "I call on the prime minister first to apologise to the (Ministry of Health) workers concerned," said Taitt. "And then he must dismiss the minister responsible for health. That is the least the government could do in the present circumstances."

BURNHAM CITED ON U.S. 'ASSASSINATION PLOT'

PA232344 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2323 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Georgetown, 23 Feb (EFE) -- Guyanese President Forbes Burnham today insinuated [insinuo] that the United States is involved in a plot to assassinate him. Burnham also accused President Ronald Reagan's government of trying to destabilize the Guyanese economy. Referring to the U.S. invasion of Grenada on 25 October 1983, Burnham said, "Guyana is not Grenada."

Opposition Leaders Also Targeted

FL232352 Bridgetown CANA in English 2335 GMT 23 Feb 84

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 23 (CANA) -- Opposition leaders here were also among the targets of an assassination plot allegedly hatched by a group of Guyana-born men arrested in the United States and Canada last December, President Forbes Burnham said last night. Burnham spoke at a rally to mark the 14th anniversary of the Republic of Guyana. It was the first time the socialist government said it was not the lone target of the alleged plot.

"(The) renegade group of adventurers, formerly of Guyanese citizenship, who was plotting the assassination of our leaders and the overthrow of the People's National Congress government, wanted to destroy both the ruling party and the main opposition," Burnham remarked. The main opposition party here is the Marxist People's Progressive Party (PPP), led by former Premier Dr Cheddi Jagan. Burnham said the eight men, arrested after a Canada-U.S. investigation into an alleged plot to overthrow the PNC, wanted to "establish a neo-fascist regime for the ruthless exploitation of our people and resources for the enrichment of a few greedy bandits."

Burnham indicated that he expected more trouble from "the reactionaries" -- meaning right-wing opponents -- who he said had been "emboldened" by their "apparent success in Grenada." This was a reference to the U.S.-led, Caribbean-supported invasion of Grenada last October that unseated the military junta that had executed Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and seized his leftist People's Revolutionary Government (PRG). Guyana was one of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries which criticised the invasion.

Burnham said if he were removed from power it would "profit the reactionaries and obscurantists nothing," because others, younger and more hardened, were prepared to take his place. Burnham said his government had been under fire at home and abroad because it had been "storming the bastions of privilege and attacking the ramparts of neo-colonialist and imperialist exploitation." He accused his opponents of using lies, subversion, trying to starve the Guyanese people, and also of waging war against the Guyana economy in an effort to have him removed.

The Guyanese leader said: "The removal of Forbes Burnham, even if it is achieved, will profit the reactionaries and obscurantists nothing, for if I should go, there are others young and more hardened who will come forward to take my place."

President Burnham told the large crowd last night at the national park: "This is 1984 and we are still here. This is 1984 and we have not perished. We can laugh in the faces of our enemies and hypocritical friends as well. They have lied. They have connived. "They have sought to starve us and we are still here, the only net exporter of food in Caricom (the Caribbean Community)."

Burnham said THE ECONOMIST recently reported that "the White House is watching Guyana closely." "Watching for what? To see whether we will bend or break?" he asked. "As last year, 1983, drew to a close, we learnt that a renegade group of adventurers, formerly of Guyanese citizenship, was plotting the assassination of our leaders and the overthrow of the People's National Congress (PNC) government," he said. "When some of them were brought before the court in Cleveland, Ohio, the United States of America, one of the principal witnesses for the prosecution, one Mr Courtesi, admitted that he knew that they, the plotters, had established contacts with the present U.S. Administration," he continued. "These miscreants, these clumsy amateurs, who in the past have smuggled abroad our hard-earned foreign exchange, had ambitions to return to Guyana and to destroy both the PNC and the main opposition, their "mafia-type patrons" established a neo-fascist regime, Burnham said. [paragraph as received]

Burnham also said when Guyana became independent of Britain in 1966, the government said it intended to revolutionize the economy and society and that there were some "who either did not take us seriously, or chose not to believe us, crediting us with indulging in mere rhetoric."

"When we took over King Sugar and followed that by making education free from nursery to university, under unapologetic government control, and it was perceived that we were serious about economic and social democracy, many an eyebrow was raised," he said. "We were storming the bastions of privilege, we were attacking the ramparts of neo-colonialist and imperialist exploitation. We were considered a dangerous aberration in the placid and respectable English-speaking Caribbean," Burnham said. The president told the nation that Guyana's revolution was like a virulent, contagious, and infectious epidemic, which had to be eradicated.

BURNHAM ADDRESSES GTA, CALLS FOR CARIBBEAN UNITY

FL231500 Bridgetown CANA in English 2044 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 22 (CANA) -- President Forbes Burnham of Guyana, which has in the past been threatened with invasion by neighbouring Venezuela, has called for Caribbean unity, stressing that there was nothing more precious in this time of war and turmoil. Speaking at a function marking the 100th anniversary of the Guyana Teacher's Association (GTA), President Burnham challenged the body to see itself as an instrument of social change for the establishment of socialism.

"The GTA, as part of the political exercise, must decide whether it wants to live in a world where there continues to be the threat of war," Burnham said. He added that in the Caribbean today, there were lots of shiny pieces of silver and there was an attempt to isolate those who were not attracted to the silver.

Burnham called on the GTA to "look upon yourself as an instrument for the establishment of a strong Caribbean nation." The head of the Caribbean community and Common Market's only South American nation added: "This is a battle for the strong: for men not mice. This is a battle for people who are committed towards the building of Guyana and building socialism." Burnham said the GTA was the best organization to help re-orient and re-educate Guyanese to bring about changes in the society.

UN OFFICIAL DENOUNCES ILLEGAL PRACTICES

PA231600 Hilversum International Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Without providing any names, special UN official (Amos Vacoh) has issued a report containing an unequivocal account of arbitrary executions perpetrated in Suriname and Indonesia. Last year a total of 10 countries were charged with these illegal practices.

Wilhelm Offenbach, from Geneva, wrote the following: (Vacoh) was supposed to conduct an in-the-field investigation in late November in Paramaribo. This investigation was postponed on 24 October. The authorities in Paramaribo declared a temporary postponement for the following reasons: The Surinamese commission directed by [words indistinct] could not meet Dr (Vacoh) due to unforeseen circumstances. Paramaribo, however, has not explained the nature of these circumstances. Since then, (Vacoh) has not received an answer to his request that a new date be set on a timely basis. Nonetheless, he is condemning Suriname implicitly by citing situations in which government opponents and critics have been killed.

He wrote the following: After a small group of officers seized power through a coup, a state of emergency was implemented, and the Constitution was disregarded. Immediately after a coup attempt, the military authorities proclaimed a state of war by virtue of which the Armed Forces were authorized to establish a military court to impose the death penalty. End of quote.

(Vacoh) goes on: In the face of general strikes, demonstrations, and the demand that elections be held and democracy restored, the government detained several leaders. That is where the [words indistinct] without legal grounds or due process. These persons, he adds, were killed while under arrest. The victims were union leaders, lawyers, journalists, businessmen, professors, and Army officers. According to a government declaration, they were killed while trying to escape.

(Vacoh's) report will be published next week. It will be submitted for debate at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, which will be meeting until mid-March.